

Hafa Adai!

CNMI to get \$83K for emergency food, shelter programs. **PAGE 2**
JKPL wins national book giveaway. **PAGE 3**

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OPA REPORT ON PSS SAYS:

'Fraud could exist and not detected'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System is not in compliance with its regulations and there could be misstatements of payroll expenses, according to an independent auditors' report conducted by Burger & Comer P.C.

In examining PSS' financial report provided to the Office of the Public Auditor, the auditor found that fraud could exist and not be detected.

The auditor said for 14 or 16 percent of the 90 payrolls selected for pay period Dec. 10, 2017 to Dec. 23, 2017, or 19 percent of the payroll selected for pay period May 27, 2018 to

See FRAUD on Page 4



INSIDE



LOCAL

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Oral Health Program, under the Division of Public Health Services, is committed to improving oral health in the CNMI.

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NATION

Scientists warn that two of the biggest earthquakes to rattle California in decades should serve as a wake-up call to be ready when the long-dreaded "Big One" strikes.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

Actor Cameron Boyce, best known for his role as the teenage son of Cruella de Vil in the Disney Channel franchise "Descendants," has died. He was 20 years old.

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Local

CNMI to get \$83K for emergency food, shelter programs

The CNMI has been chosen to receive \$83,720 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs made available by the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shel-

ter National Board Program. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red

Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army; and United Way Worldwide.

The Local CNMI Board is charged to distribute funds ap-

propriated by U.S. Congress to help expand the capacity of NMI service agencies that have food and shelter programs.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3)

have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

The local board has distributed emergency food and shel-

ter funds previously to Kardat, Salvation Army, Empty Vessel Ministries and the Saipan Mayor's Office. Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for emergency food and shelter program funds must contact John Hirsh at 234-3459 or at nmichapter@redcross.org for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is Friday, July 19. (PR)

NMTI requests revisit of apprenticeship program

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute requested a revisit of an apprenticeship program at a meeting with legislators at their main facility in Lower Base last June 28.

"Certain policies that are in place, based on our interpretation, needs to be revisited," NMTI continuing education director Ross Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

One idea that Manglona mentioned is to revisit Public Law No. 15-05, which authorizes the Northern Marianas College to establish the United States Registered Apprenticeship Training Program.

He believes that the CNMI should mirror what Guam does with the apprenticeship

program; where a regulatory agency should handle regulatory business and not an educational entity.

NMTI sees that with proper handling of the apprenticeship program, the CNMI can see a constant increase in local employment.

Apprenticeship is a three-prong agreement with the individual apprentice, the business investing in the individual, and the U.S. Department of Labor. Manglona added that a fourth entity into the agreement is educational institutions like NMTI and NMC.

He said that the USDOL will determine the curriculum and whether the apprentice completes the program; then the business sector will agree to provide annual increments

with the individual based on accomplishments, amount of time spent learning the selected field, and the amount of time the individual spent working with the business.

"There are 1,600 apprentice-level positions level positions out there...and NMTI nor NMC can provide everything to everything," Manglona added.

Manglona pointed out that the one thing they can do is to tell businesses that there is an advocate, and that is the U.S. Department of Labor's Apprenticeship program.

P.L. 15-05 was put into law into 2006 and NMC is given the authority to create an Apprenticeship Advisory Committee for the program. It also redirected all technical trade education to the college.

The Carolinian Affairs Office, in collaboration with the Division of Youth Services, kicked off its first of two Summer Youth Empowerment Camps yesterday at the Tanapag Youth Center.

DYS Family Youth Enhancement Program coordinator Colleen Diaz informed *Saipan Tribune* that the camp has 63 total registrants. This camp will be until July 18, with each day being from 7:30am to 11:30am.

Both camps are featuring sports, art & crafts, and presentation sections for participants.

Participants will be playing

various sports like basketball, kickball, baseball, and flag rugby in a rotating schedule each day.

The arts & crafts section focuses on weaving, bead-making, and painting.

Participants are also given lessons about mental health awareness through presentations provided by the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Office and the CNMI Crisis Counseling.

Snacks are provided for children from the United States Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program.

Diaz also stated that a total of 15 youth volunteers will be helping participants

through the camps.

The second camp will be from July 22 to Aug. 1 at the San Isidro Youth Learning Center and will observe the same schedule as the first camp.

Both CAO and DYS would like to thank the Department of Cultural Affairs Sports and Recs, the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, the GLS Youth Suicide Prevention Office, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., and other agencies that helped make the camps possible.

For more information about the camps, contact the CAO at (670) 234-6385 or DYS at (670) 237-1016.

WIC POP UP CLINIC

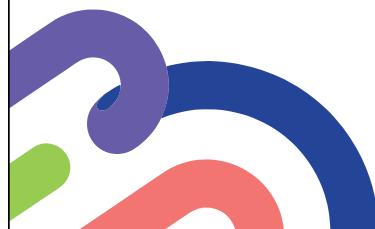
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This ad is funded by USDA, CDFA Program No. 10.557, Federal Award No. 7NM700NM5."



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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT



This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2020 State Plan is now available for public review and comments from July 08-12, 2019. Interested members of the general public may review the CNMI WIC Program 2020 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located in Upper Navy Hill, Mayoria Ave. Building N25. Office hours are from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Monday-Friday). All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no later than close of business on July 12, 2019.

/s/ Esther L. Muna
Chief Executive Officer



/s/ Erin Angela Camacho
CNMI WIC Program Administrator

The CNMI WIC Program is an equal opportunity provider, and is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (CFDA #10.557, federal award #7NM700NM5).

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'Ridding foreign labor economically detrimental'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) said getting rid of the foreign labor in the CNMI is "economically very,

very detrimental."

The population is determined on higher economic growth, said Attao when asked for comment yesterday about the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Train-

ing Administration's Office of Foreign Labor Certification's approval of the final round of submissions for the CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey.

Attao said sometimes a lot of the decisions are made

so many thousands of miles away from the CNMI.

He said the CNMI's reliance on goods and services are still dependent from outside the Commonwealth.

The speaker said the CNMI

does not have the population necessary to fill all the job positions.

He said the CNMI is working on that by looking for ways through the Northern Marianas College, the Public School System, and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, to get those positions.

Attao, however, stated that the CNMI's population in reality cannot sustain the needed jobs.

"That's why we are still relying on foreign labor," he said.

Attao said businesses have to abide by the NMI Prevailing Wage Survey.

"If that's what being called for then we have to abide by," Attao pointed out.

The speaker noted that with the damage that the CNMI had gone through from all the typhoons, getting contractors is the challenge right now.

"With the prevailing wage then it might be not beneficial to some of the people that are looking for contractors," he said, adding that contractors might actually put additional amount because the demand is very high and the supply is very low.

JKPL wins national book giveaway

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library was recognized as one of the two winners of the Young Adult Library Services Association's 2019 Great Books Giveaway last June 24. The winners of the giveaway were announced last June 24 at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

JKPL will receive a share of more than \$30,000 worth of books, audiobook, and other materials donated to YALSA by publishers and producers in 2018. This collection also includes about 3,000 newly published books, videos, compact discs, and audiocassettes; these materials cater to young adults.

This achievement marks the first time any library in the Pacific was awarded since its establishment in 2000.

Tilden Campus Library in New York was named the sec-

ond winner of the giveaway.

The library joined the giveaway with over 10,000 other participants competing for the rewarded amount of library materials.

Library director Erlinda Naputi and Bookmobile supervisor Leoralynn Terlaje represented JKPL in the ALA Annual Conference.

"Receiving these books would help the JKPL adhere to its library goals of increasing literacy in the CNMI," Naputi said.

In addition, the materials would help restore the young adult collection, primary in the Bookmobile, the JKPL branch libraries—with Tinian and Rota—and the main library. This will also increase the relevance of the collections, as it replaces many of the damaged materials.

YALSA president Todd Krueger delivered special remarks for the JKPL during a special recognition ceremony



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Library director Erlinda Naputi, right, and Bookmobile supervisor Leoralynn Terlaje flank Young Adult Library Services Association president Todd Krueger during the Annual American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

as part of the Annual ALA Conference.

JKPL was one of many buildings damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu; as the library's

ceiling was ripped and 20% of the library's young adult collection sustained water damage, with the entire young adult collection in the Book-

mobile destroyed.

JKPL serves a population of 52,263 individuals, with 42.22% of the population aged 24 years or younger.

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MVA launches digital ads at Japan train stations

On June 24, 2019, the Marianas Visitors Authority unveiled a new series of digital displays featuring The Marianas in several of Tokyo's busiest train stations.



MVA
The Marianas Visitors Authority's new digital advertisement featuring The Marianas airs at JR Shinagawa Station in Tokyo on June 4-30, 2019

OPA

From Page 1

dependents.

The auditor said in one of 90 travel authorizations, or 1 percent of the travel transactions tested, NMC paid for the repatriation of one of their employees together with his dependent.

The auditor recommendation is that to ensure that the travel transaction complies with their travel policies and procedures, verification of the purpose of travel should be performed and confirmed that it conforms to their policies.

"If NMC plans to pay for repatriation in the future, this should be included in NMC's policies," the auditor said.

On payroll, the auditor found that there is a possibility that incorrect salary is being paid to employees and as an effect this could overstate NMC's expenses.

The auditor said two of 90

employees, or 2 percent of the samples selected for testing, were paid at a rate higher than what was stated on their latest personnel action form.

The auditor said the cause was that the most recent pay rate was not verified by NMC staff preparing the payroll.

The auditor's recommendation is that in order to properly pay employees, the person in charge of payroll should secure a copy of the personnel action forms and verify the rate before entering it to the system.

On leave and sick leave credits, the auditor found that NMC did not comply with their payroll internal requirements in which verification of leave credits taken should be done before entering it to the system.

With this situation, the auditor said, an incorrect amount of salary was provided to the employee.

The auditor said for one of 90 tested, or 1 percent of the sample, they noted that

The "Summer Vacation in Saipan" slide show was featured the first week at JR Shinagawa Station, which receives about 640,000 passengers daily. The 15-second digital advertisements feature five iconic scenes from The Marianas, including Taga Beach, Rota Hole, Managaha, and Forbidden Island.

"In conjunction with the huge and stunning Marianas #30 Treasures backlit photos we have had at Shimbashi station in the heart of the business district of Shiodome, the



MVA
The Marianas Visitors Authority's new digital display featuring The Marianas and promoting "Summer Vacation in Saipan" airs at JR Shinagawa Station in Tokyo on June 24-30, 2019. The station receives about 640,000 passengers daily.

new digital ads are intended to ramp up demand for The Marianas in anticipation of new direct flights by Skymark Airlines," said MVA Marketing manager Thomas Kim. "Vivid images of some of our most popular sites aim to entice visitors to visit The Marianas this summer."

The same ads were displayed on July 1-7, 2019, at Metro Shinjuku Station, which receives about 210,000 daily passengers, and Metro Roppongi Station, which receives about 118,000 daily

passengers commuting near Roppongi Hills, one of the



The Marianas Visitors Authority's new digital advertisement featuring The Marianas airs at Metro Shinjuku Station in Tokyo on July 1-7, 2019. Metro Roppongi Station receives about 118,000 daily passengers.

FRAUD

From Page 1

June 9, 2018, 5 or 6 percent of the payroll selected for pay period Sept. 2, 2018 to Sept. 15, 2018, employees did not sign and verify the time card.

The auditor said the cause is that PSS did not adhere to policies and procedures for the maintenance of Human Resources records.

The auditor said PSS held the timekeeper training on Aug. 30, 2018.

The auditor's recommendation is that on the time card section, all employees must have timecards and the timecards should include the employee's signature.

The auditor said PSS should strengthen the training on the payroll process and implement and monitor the procedures.

The auditor also found that PSS is not in compliance with its procurement policies and procedures.

The audit also found that PSS' total expenses for Fiscal Year 2018 amounted to \$91.67 million, while aggregate support from federal agencies, CNMI appropriations, and other revenues amounted to \$77.43 million, restricted for special purpose of \$2.45 million and deficit of \$1.33 million.

PSS said the deficit is due to noncurrent liabilities that are to be funded by appropriations from the CNMI government.

PSS' enrollment for school year 2017 to 2018 was 10,179 students. PSS said there was a decrease of 41 students from 10,220 students for school year 2016 to 2017.

PSS current assets of \$9.59 million as of Sept. 30, 2018 decreased by \$1.41 million or 12 percent compared to current assets \$11.01 million as of Sept. 30, 2017.

PSS said the increase in capital assets is primarily due to major expenditures attributed to construction projects.

Current liabilities of \$5.86 million as of Sept. 30, 2018 increased by \$353,864 or 6 percent compared to \$5.51 million as of Sept. 30, 2017 primarily due to the purchase of instructional materials and capital projects from various vendors.

ROTA

From Page 1

with her husband the night before the incident.

The source further stated that in all her years living on Rota, she has never heard of anyone getting shot let alone shooting themselves.

DPS is currently still inves-

tigating the incident.

According to a press release from DPS, at about 3:20am last Saturday, dispatch received a 911 call from a police officer who was off-duty stating that his wife had shot herself at their residence in Sinapalo, Rota.

Officers were dispatched to the scene and upon arrival, noticed a motionless female

inside the residence. Within close proximity of the victim, officers also noticed a firearm.

Further investigation revealed that the victim suffered an apparent gunshot wound from what appeared to have been caused by a high-caliber rifle. No other apparent injuries were present.

Detectives found that the female is a privately-owned

firearm and not a department-issued firearm.

Medics arrived on scene and performed a physical assessment on the victim and determined that signs of death were present. The victim was then transported to the Rota Healthcare Center where Dr. Gregory Kotheimer pronounced the victim to dead at 6:01am.

4-H Marianas wins 'Raise Your Hand' initiative

4-H Marianas, in partnership with Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services-Family, Community and Youth Development Program, won the National 4-H Council 4-H Raise Your Hand Initiative. The "Raise Your Hand" initiative is a nationwide call-to-action for 4-H alumni, supporters, and friends to vote to win funding for their 4-H state program. This funding helps more kids in their communities benefit from the hands-on learning programs 4-H offers, helping kids serve their community and build critical life skills needed to thrive. The Northern Mariana Islands 4-H Program was awarded \$20,000, which surpassed Delaware and Nebraska who received \$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively. The award will be presented at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture Western Region Joint Deans & Directors meeting in July in New Mexico. 4H meets with youth and families where they live, serves community needs, and builds critical life skills young people



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Counselors and counselors-in-training pose for a photo during a 4-H Camp Maga'lahi training session.

need to thrive. According to the National 4-H Council, only one in three youth say they have the skills to handle what life throws their way. "Thank you to all who raised your hands for 4-H Marianas," said Lorenza Aldan, acting Program leader for the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services-FCYD Program. "The funds will be used to sustain existing efforts to build capacity through leadership skills development and workforce preparation." For more information about 4-H Marianas programs, please visit the NMC CREES website at crees.marianas.edu or on Facebook and Instagram @4HMarianas. (PR)

Overstaying tourist subject to deportation

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An overstaying tourist who was caught operating an illegal taxi service with a fake CNMI driver's license has been subject to deportation and sentenced to serve one-year probation if Immigration Services decides against deportation.

Chunxiao Chen was ordered by District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to surrender to federal authorities for deportation following her sentencing hearing last Monday.

Manglona said, however, if Chen is not placed under immediate deportation, she must report to the U.S. Probation Office for supervision and to serve her sentence of one-year probation.

Chen was also ordered to pay a \$500 fine.

Manglona exonerated the \$2,500 the cash bail Chen posted for her release and will automatically deduct from the amount the \$500 fine and \$100 special assessment fee.

Chen was represented by

court-appointed attorney Steven Pixley who recommended her sentence of one-year probation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Garth Backe, also recommended a sentence of one-year probation noting Chen's cooperation in uncovering others who have also been acquiring fake driver's licenses.

During the sentencing, Chen, through her interpreter Mike Yang, expressed remorse for her crime and asked the court and all the people present in the court to forgive her. She said she made a mistake because she needed money and did not completely understand the law.

Chen pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to unlawfully produce an identification document.

According to Chen's plea agreement, Chen gave \$300 to another individual for a fake CNMI driver's license and sent that person a copy of her old driver's license through Weixin, a Chinese messenger service. A day later, Chen received the fake license from the individual in Chalan Kanoa.

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IT&E

Marianas to experience isolated showers all week

The CNMI can expect isolated showers to occur on different parts of the island and winds up to 15mph as the Marianas

slowly makes the transition to the rainy season.

According to a weather forecast from the National

Weather Service based on Tiyan, Guam, isolated showers are to be expected through out the Marianas this whole week.

The forecast predicts a slight chance of thunderstorms on Tuesday with light and variable winds.

From Friday through Saturday, isolated showers are to be expected as well as thunderstorms.

The CNMI will also experience light to gentle trade winds to continue through Thursday. **(Kimberly Bautista)**



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DPS reminds public not to leave keys inside an unattended vehicle

The CNMI Department of Public Safety would like to remind the public not to leave vehicle keys inside an unattended vehicle. In recent weeks there have been several reports of stolen vehicles throughout the island of Saipan. In most of these cases it was found that vehicles had their keys left inside while unattended by the owner.

In an effort to prevent similar cases, DPS is asking the public to take all measures in securing your vehicle.

According to the vehicle code under CNMI Law, any unattended motor vehicle that is not being operated must have the engine turned off, with the ignition keys removed. While also setting the parking break and having the vehicles front

wheels turned toward the curb when on a hill or incline. For more details on the CNMI vehicle code visit cnmilaw.org.

The CNMI Department of Public Safety highly encourages the public to call 911 anytime to report a crime or an emergency. Our officers are here to help you. **(PR)**

BMV will be closed 3:30pm on July 11

On Thursday, July 11, 2019 the Bureau of Motor Vehicle will be closed from 3:30pm through 4:30pm for a staff briefing relating to immigration and the Real I.D. Act amendment.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicle will re-open the following day Friday, July 12, 2019 to resume normal department operations. **(PR)**

Two from USCIS to offer workshops

U.S. Citizenship and Immi-

gration Services Western Regional Community Relations lead Jennifer Lane and Honolulu Community Relations officer Kamana Mathur will present two workshops at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library on Wednesday, July 10, from 3:30pm to 5pm. The two will give an immigration overview and discuss how to become a U.S. citizen. The public is welcome to join these free presentations. For more information or to RSVP, call (670) 235-7322. **(PR)**

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2019, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Re-

gency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker is Dr. Peter B. Brett, who is an oncologist at the Commonwealth Health Center. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarian-as@gmail.com. **(PR)**

USCIS reps at July SHRM meeting

The membership meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter on Thursday, July 11, 2019, will feature U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services representatives who will talk about the E-Verify program and form I-9. The meeting will take place at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's ballroom beginning at 11am.

Rea Bisa, USCIS management and program analyst, Kamana Mathur, USCIS community relations officer, and

Jennifer Lane, regional community relations lead, will do a 30-minute presentation followed by a 30-minute question-and-answer session.

This meeting is open to the public. The presentation includes a lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. **(PR)**

Chamoru commission meetings

The Kumision i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'lå' Taotao Tåno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam)

will hold its monthly meetings on July 11 and 25, 2019, 12:30pm to 3pm at the Kumision office, The Garden House, Plasa de Espana, Hagatna.

A work session will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2019, from 12:30pm to 3pm, at the same venue to discuss the GDOE CHamoru Language Teachers CHamoru Language Orthography.

For further information call commission chair Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. **(PR)**

Bank of Guam Saipan branches will be closed July 13

Bank of Guam's Saipan branches will be closed for one day on Saturday, July 13, 2019. The bank's ATMs, online banking, and customer support centers remain available. **(PR)**

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: RFP19-BECQ-106
 SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 05, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY – SAIPAN"
 COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
 THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D) THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
 THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
 /S/ ELI D. CABRERA
 ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ
 /S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
 ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB19-BECQ-107
 SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 05, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.
"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY – ROTA BRANCH"
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 THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D) THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
 THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
 /S/ ELI D. CABRERA
 ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ
 /S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
 ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) RFP19-CHCC/CGC-016
 SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 29, 2019 TIME: 2:00 PM
"DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM"
 COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
 THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.
 *Mandatory bidders meeting on July 03, 2019 @ 11:00 am, Saipan time @ CHCC Conference Room #3.
 *Off-island vendors, please email Subroto Banerji @ Subroto.banerji@dph.gov.mp for a Zoom link.
 /S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
 CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 /S/ SUBROTO BANERJI
 ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

B&J CORPORATION
Dba Dive Y2K/ Olive Style
 Has an opening for
SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR (1)
DUTIES
 To do scuba diving tours, training underwater scuba diving, teach driving to individuals or groups, Explains and demonstrates use of apparatus and equipment. Operates and maintain high pressure compressor for fill-up of scuba tanks. Explains safety guidelines and procedures to customers. Clean and check Scuba Diving gears and apparatus equipment for any defect or break. Does other related jobs.
REQUIREMENTS

- Two years related experience.
- At least High School Graduate
- Must possess a valid Scuba Diving Instructor license from NAUI or PADI
- Must be willing to work with flexible schedule
- Must be able to speak, read and write the Korean language for better communications with Korean tourist customer.

SALARY: \$11.70/HOUR
 Interested applicants Send resume to BnJcorp2019@gmail.com or call 1-670-233-6322 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm except holidays)
 This is a temporary full time position.

B&J CORPORATION
Dba Dive Y2K/ Olive Style
 Has an opening for
RESERVATIONS SALES AGENT (1)
DUTIES

- Make arrangement and accept reservations from Hotel/Tour Agency and Walk in Customers.
- Make daily schedule for Dive arrangements and schedules.
- Explain Diving Tour packages to tourist customers.
- Make Daily Sales report and record receipt of payments from customers.

REQUIREMENTS

- At least High School Graduate
- Must be knowledgeable in computer programs (Excel, Word and Online Reservations System)
- At least 3 year related experience in travel/tourism industry.
- Knowledge in Scuba Diving activities is a plus.
- Police Clearance required.
- Prior work experience certificate required.
- Police clearance and previous employment certificate will be equally applied to both U.S. Workers and CW-1 Workers.

SALARY: \$8.54/HOUR
 Interested applicants Send resume to BnJcorp2019@gmail.com or call 1-670-233-6322 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm except holidays)
 This is a temporary full time position.

B&J CORPORATION
Dba Dive Y2K/ Olive Style
 Has an opening for
SALES MANAGER (1)
DUTIES
 Direct overall operation of business related matters such as managing staff, pricing, distribution of products or service to the customers.
 Analyze sales statistics gathered to determine sales and service. Review Operation records and reports to project sales and determine profitability.
 Determine price schedules and discount rates.
QUALIFICATIONS

- High School Graduate with 4 years related experience.
- At least 4 years related experience
- Excellent written and oral communications skills in Korean/English preferred.
- Good customer relation skills
- Knowledge in clothing trends is required.
- Strong sales background required.
- Police clearance required.
- Previous employment certificate required.
- Requirements will be equally applied to both US workers and CW-1 Workers.

SALARY: \$13.92/HOUR
 Interested applicants Send resume to BnJcorp2019@gmail.com or call 1-670-233-6322 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm except holidays)
 This is a temporary full time position.

HANMI occupancy rate at 88 pct. in June

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported an 87.92% average occupancy rate among its

11-member hotels for June 2019. The figure reflects a 5-percent increase for HANMI hotels compared to June 2018.

All set for JKPL Summer Library Program

Mark your calendars for this summer's reading program: "A Universe of Stories!" The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is excited to bring you a galaxy of space-related activities, programs, and reading challenges. Activities include: STEAM-related activities, exploratory space programs, arts & crafts, music, dance, Story Exploring Activities, and so much more!

The Children's Library will be closed for the duration of the Children's Summer Reading Program from Tuesday to Friday from July 9 to 12 and July 16 to 19 from 9:30am to 3pm. Registration for the Children's Reading Program at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is currently closed.

Please see below for the Children's Summer Reading Program schedule:

- Session A: Ages 6-8 (Tuesday - Friday, July 9-19, from 8:30am-11:30am)
- Session B: Ages 9-12 (Tuesday - Friday, July 9-19, from 12:30pm-3:00pm)

Registration for the Early Literacy, Teen, and the Adult Reading Program is still open. Interested participants (ages 13 and up) with cleared, valid library cards should register at the front desk. You'll receive a reading log, which you'll complete to earn awesome prizes! Sign up for program in a bag (ages 10 and up). In addition, be sure to check out our monthly calendars, which contain many fun and exciting events just for the ages 13 and up! Free PSS breakfast and lunch will be provided for all registered participants in the Children's Summer Reading Program (ages 6-12), and is an option for teens as well (ages 13-18).

Get excited for our annual Bookmobile Summer Library Program! Our dedicated Bookmobile and Outreach Services team is geared up to provide a high-quality summer reading program covering our remote villages! Bookmobile Summer Library Program Registration runs from June 29 to July 13, 2019 or until filled. Please call 287-7316, Leoralynn Terlaje or Vicasha Camacho at 235-7322/23. The Bookmobile Collaborative Summer Library Program is free and open to children ages 6-12 years, teens ages 13-18 years, and adults. Must have a valid Joeten-Kiyu Public Library card with no pending obliga-

However, due largely to the closure of Mariana Resort & Spa in September and the closure of Coral Ocean Golf

days, austerity Saturdays, and holidays.

Programs and activities are sponsored by the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, community partners, and are made possible by IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-00-18-0052-18 and IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-01-18-0058-18. (PR)

Resort since October due to Super Typhoon Yutu, the actual number of rooms sold in June 2019 compared to June 2018 has dropped 8 percent, as 60,860 of 69,223 available room nights sold in June 2019, compared to 66,921 of 78,894 available room nights sold over the same period last year.

"While the average hotel occupancy rate is higher than last year, the actual number of rooms sold is lower," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanaugh. "We continue to seek the opportunity to renew public

land leases for our major hotel members on public land, Fiesta Resort & Spa, which has only two years left to operate, and Hyatt Regency Saipan, which has two and a half years. This will assure continued revenue for the Commonwealth and help bolster confidence in our destination by both visitors and investors."

Average room rates were at \$135.17 compared to \$135.41 last June.

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical reports are Aqua Resort Club,

Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of The Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. (PR)



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2017 Toyota Corolla IM Hatchback
Mileage: 29,352. Black Sand Pearl.
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2017 Toyota Corolla
Mileage: 20,367. Slate Metallic.
Stock #U19052R. **Was \$17,999**

NOW \$16,999*



2018 Toyota Corolla IM Hatchback
Mileage: 8,470. 4-cyl. 1.8L DOHC.
Stock #U19044T. **Was \$19,999**

NOW \$17,999*



2016 Toyota Camry Hybrid
Mileage: 29,172. Celestial Silver Metallic.
Stock #R18-048F. **Was \$19,699**

NOW \$18,999*



2017 Toyota RAV4 LE
Mileage: 22,882. Silver Sky Metallic.
Stock #U19053R. **Was \$22,999**

NOW \$22,999*



2017 Toyota RAV4 LE
Mileage: 24,904. Black Pearl.
Stock #U19056R.

NOW \$22,999*



2017 Toyota RAV4 LE
Mileage: 20,034. Pyrite Mica.
Stock #U19057R.

NOW \$22,999*



2016 Toyota Highlander
Mileage: 24,759. Midnight Black Metallic.
Stock #U19037P. **Was \$24,999**

NOW \$24,499*



2016 Toyota Highlander
Mileage: 28,299. Nautical Blue Metallic.
Stock #U18-121T. **Was \$25,799**

NOW \$24,799*



2016 Toyota Highlander
Mileage: 22,865. Moulin Rouge Mica.
Stock #U19050R. **Was \$25,999**

NOW \$25,299*



2016 Toyota Highlander
Mileage: 31,287. Blizzard Pearl.
Stock #R19020F.

NOW \$25,799*



2018 Toyota Tacoma 4x2 TMax Edition
Mileage: 5,000. Magnetic Gray Metallic.
Stock #U19035R.

NOW \$25,999*



2017 Toyota RAV4 4x4
Mileage: 8,387. 4-cyl. 5-door SUV.
Stock #R19-011F.

NOW \$25,999*



2017 Toyota Sienna
Mileage: 14,231. Black.
Stock #U19047R.

NOW \$25,999*



2016 Toyota Tacoma 4x2 PreRunner
Mileage: 48,525. Magnetic Gray Metallic.
Stock #U19-025T. **Was \$26,899**

NOW \$25,999*



2016 Toyota 4Runner
Mileage: 19,971. Classic Silver Metallic.
Stock # U19059R.

NOW \$28,499*



2016 Toyota 4Runner
Mileage: 24,500. Classic Silver Metallic.
Stock #U19048P.

NOW \$28,999*



2017 Toyota 4Runner
Mileage: 21,506. V6.
Stock #R19013F. **Was \$32,999**

NOW \$30,599*



2016 Chevy Express
15-passenger van, Olympic White
Mileage: 2,351. Stock #U19060R.

NOW \$32,999*



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CHCC holds advanced emergency preparedness training

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program held an emergency preparedness training for CHCC staff from June 18 to 21 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Staff from the Division of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Commonwealth Ports Authority also joined the training.

The training covered Federal Emergency Management Agency Incident Command System courses 300 and 400, which are designed to enhance responders, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, ability to work together effectively during an emergency.

Use of the ICS is needed when an incident requires response activities from multiple local emergency manage-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHCC staff and community partners attend ICS 300-400 training at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

ment and response agencies. Effective cross-jurisdictional coordination using common processes and systems is critical to a successful emergency response, and this system provides a flexible, yet standardized core mechanism for coordinated and collaborative incident management.

All CHCC staff are required

to be certified in basic ICS courses for disaster preparedness, which can be taken online at <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>. Advanced courses, such as 300 and 400, must be taken in a classroom setting. The instructors for this training were Bryan Vidrene and Chris Curatilo of Tempest Planning LLC, which "spe-

cializes in assisting public health and medical preparedness programs with the design and execution of emergency preparedness plans, trainings, and exercises." (<http://www.tempestplanning.com/>)

Emergency preparedness training and exercises such as this are crucial to addressing

gaps in the CHCC's current disaster preparedness procedures and in strengthening the CNMI's overall ability to carry out efficient and successful response and recovery operations during an emergency. The CHCC hopes to continue to build capacity in emergency response amongst staff

and community partners and stakeholders in preparation for future incidents.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow us on Facebook and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950. (PR)

SPTC cuts fleet by more than half

SAN DIEGO, California—

South Pacific Tuna Corporation announced yesterday that is selling more than half of its 14 U.S.-flagged purse seine fishing vessels to foreign operators, reducing its fleet to six by the end of the year. Approximately 12 U.S. captains and their crew will be relieved of duty. Additionally, the San Diego-based office and management team will be reduced to support the downsized fleet.

The sale of the vessels represents a reduction of 70,000 tons of U.S.-produced tuna, which will increase the U.S. seafood trade deficit by \$80 million to \$100 million annually. The move also reduces the volume of sustainable FAD-free, MSC certified fish for the global tuna market, including fish supplied under the Pacifical program. SPTC will continue to supply sustainably harvested tuna to its current customers with its remaining operations.

"Our fleet reduction is due in part to the U.S. government's continued lack of support and the lack of interest in

» Company sites US anti-industry regulations and policies

ratifying the 1988 South Pacific Tuna Treaty, renegotiated in 2016," said SPTC executive director J. Douglas Hines. "Despite our efforts to work with the Trump Administration, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has not reciprocated and continues its overly aggressive compliance and enforcement actions."

NOAA compliance authorities have made it virtually impossible for the U.S. distant water tuna fleet to compete against the fleets from China, Korea and Taiwan. Unlike foreign competitors who are strongly supported by their governments, the U.S. fleet faces policies by its own government that are non-supportive and essentially anti-industry and anti-trade.

With the withdrawal of the U.S. fleet from the Western Pacific, the United States' influence in those waters will continue to decline as China, Korea, and Russia take a larger role in the region.

"In the global priorities of the U.S. Government, the Western Pacific has become

an afterthought," said Hines. "But as Pres. Ronald Reagan recognized in 1988, the South Pacific Tuna Treaty is a critical step to ensuring American vessels and commerce continue to lead in the region and the world. The reduction of the U.S. fleet will be a devastating blow for the international policy community as well as the Western Pacific sustainable fishery ecosystem."

"It is a sad day for us all after fighting all these years as we see the end of long legacy of Tuna harvesting by U.S. interest," Hines added. "However, we leave with pride of years of fighting to improve the region."

SPTC will continue to evaluate the opportunities and challenges for its remaining U.S.-flagged purse seine operations as it continues to operate the balance of its fleet, but with guarded hope.

SPTC is a United States-based tuna vessel management company headquartered in San Diego, California. Its 14 U.S. flag tuna vessels fish in the Western Pacific and supply tuna to many of the industry's most recognizable seafood brands. More at sopactuna.com. (PR)

USCIS speakers at Chamber meeting

The monthly general membership meeting for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be tomorrow, July 10, 2019 at the Regency Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Saipan.

This month, the Chamber has secured two guest speakers from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services: Jennifer Lane (Regional Community Relations lead) and Kamana Mathur (USCIS Community Relations officer). The meeting will include a 30-minute presentation with a high-level overview of the changes at USCIS, the trends of immigration looking forward, and updates from the agency. This presentation is

geared towards management and business professionals.

After the presentation, guests are invited for 15-minute question and answer portion. Unfortunately, USCIS is not able to provide a timeline for when the regulations will be published and cannot answer any questions regarding upcoming CW-1 regulations.

The Chamber invites the public to submit questions in advance to executive@saipanchamber.com.

Lunch will be served at 11:30am and the meeting will begin promptly at 12 noon. The luncheon fee is \$25/Chamber member and \$35/non-member. The Chamber is accepting reser-

vations of six or more. To reserve or for more information, please contact the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, family, and community succeed as one. For more information regarding SCC updates, please follow Saipan Chamber of Commerce at <https://www.facebook.com/SPNChamber> or visit their website at www.saipanchamber.com. (PR)

"Our fleet reduction is due in part to the U.S. government's continued lack of support and the lack of interest in

over the ports authority's decision to award the project to the second lowest bidder and deny ASC's appeal. ASC had submitted the lowest bid of \$2.567 million last year, while AIC, which won the contract, entered a \$2.651 million bid.

ating measures such as the suspension of Tobacco Control Fund and Tobacco Settlement Fund, imposing of \$6,000 fee increase of poker fee, and diversion of local poker funds to the General Fund—all expected to generate some \$20 million.

July 9, 2005

CDA OKs \$310K for central market

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has approved a \$310,000 grant for the proposed Garapan Central Market. In a letter to House minority leader Arnold I. Palacios, CDA/NMHC executive director Maria Lourdes S. Ada said that the central market project would get the financial assistance under the NMHC's 2005 Community Development Block Grant. She asked the lawmaker to provide additional updated project costs and design changes or changes to the proposed location. She said the annual action plan of the project will be finalized and distributed to the clearing house for review and presented to the governor for his signature. Once signed, the plan will be sent to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for final approval.

Legislature OKs tobacco funds appropriation

The House and the Senate have put their seal of approval on the bill that aims to reprogram all monies in the Tobacco Control Fund to various programs. The passage of the bill, called the CNMI Health Improvement Act of 2005, came even as the Executive Branch is asking the Legislature to suspend appropriations using tobacco funds to boost the government's spending in fiscal year 2006. Earlier, the House also passed H.B.14-8, which appropriates \$1.3 million using the same source of funds for the same programs. The Babauta administration has submitted a \$225.8 million budget package, which includes revenue gener-

July 9, 2008

NMC workshop seeks to spur aquaculture industry

In a bid to spur the development of an aquaculture industry in the Commonwealth, Northern Marianas College and non-profit groups today launched a two-day workshop on Saipan to give local entrepreneurs the inside knowledge they need to cultivate commercial marine crops like fish and shrimp. Worldwide, aquaculture has become the fastest spreading method of food production, according National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration statistics. Nearly half of the fish consumed worldwide each year are raised on fish farms, NOAA says, with global aquaculture production earning \$70 billion annually.

\$6.6M sought for 2 Saipan road projects

The House of Representatives has asked the Fitial administration to set aside \$6.6 million in federal funds for two major road construction projects. A House resolution adopted yesterday calls on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Public Works Secretary Diego Songsong to ensure funding for the design and construction of roads and drainage from Capital Hill to Mt. Tapochau, and from Chalan Galaide to Navy Hill. According to the lawmakers, DPW and the Saipan Mayor's Office have already spent too much money maintaining the two coral roads. The House members suggested that federal highway funds be reserved for the projects in these installments: \$650,000 in fiscal year 2009, \$2.975 million in FY2010, and another \$2.975 million in FY2011.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 9, 2004

'Airport personnel, vendors must undergo checkpoints'

The Transportation Security Administration has issued a new policy requiring all government and private employees to go through security checkpoints before entering secure areas of airport terminals. TSA reportedly sent out three security directives on Tuesday that direct airports to come up with a plan to screen all employees going into secure areas and to limit the number of doorways that provide access to restricted zones. Acting TSA-Saipan director Viola Sablan declined to comment on the directives. She instead referred the Saipan Tribune to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said he had yet to see a copy of the directives as of yesterday afternoon.

CPA proceeding with Tinian terminal project despite suit

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is pushing through with the construction of a new departure terminal at the Tinian International Airport despite a lawsuit recently filed by a protesting bidder. CPA executive director Carlos Salas said his office continues to work with the contractor, AIC Marianas, and the U.S. Department of the Interior on the project, which will be co-funded by the federal government. ASC Construction, which entered the lowest bid for the project, sued the CPA last May



Participants and facilitators of the two-part Oral Health Training.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CHCC strives to improve oral health in CNMI

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Oral Health Program, under the Division of Public Health Services, is committed to improving oral health in the CNMI.

Through outreach work and the dental clinics at the CHCC, Tinian Health Center, and Rota Health Center, the Oral Health Program has recently been more successful than ever in initiatives to improve oral health, especially among children, and the CHCC would like to update the community on some of the Oral Health Program's recent successes.



Shally Smith, dental assistant at the CHCC Dental Clinic, receiving the donated Bright Smiles, Bright Future kits from Colgate.

dental sealant program.

evaluator for the CHCC Oral Health Program, conducted an oral health training workshop for medical providers and staff from the CHCC; Medical Associates of the Pacific; PSS Head Start Program; Women, Infants, and Children Program; and the Commonwealth Cancer Association. The training provided medical staff and community partners with information and strategies on the prevention and cessation of betelnut chewing, particularly among children and pregnant women, and on the safety of fluoride and fluoride varnish for children under 5 years old.

"On behalf of everyone in attendance, I would like to express our utmost thanks to Dr. Peter Milgrom and Dr. Ohnmar Tut for sharing with us their expertise on preventative and curative oral health topics. With the training that was provided, the Oral Health Program at CHCC and our community-based partners will be able to provide effective interventions to combat the high rates of childhood tooth decay and promote healthier pregnancy outcomes for the women in our community. While our first goal in improving oral health is prevention, the training also provided us with new, minimally invasive techniques for treating dental decay when preventative measures have failed. By combining the most effective preventative tools with new methods of treatment, I am optimistic that we will see improved oral health for our children," said Dr. Mary A. Bellama, Dentist, CHCC Oral Health Program.

Oral Health Program services are administered through the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. This program is funded through a federal grant (#HT12HP31858) from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (PR)

Donation of Bright Smiles, Bright Future Kits

On June 24, 2019, the CHCC Oral Health Program received over 200 Bright Smiles, Bright Future kits from Colgate. This collaborative effort was made possible by the Oral Health Program; Dr. Naina Kau, coordinator for Colgate's Oral Health Education Program for Fiji and the Pacific Islands; and Micronesian Brokers Inc. The Bright Smiles kits will be distributed to students participating in the School Dental Sealant Program.

School Dental Sealant Program

Through a formal partnership with the CNMI Public School System, the CHCC Oral Health Program provides school-based preventive services to students enrolled in Head Start and students in 2nd and 6th grade on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The School Dental Sealant Program was implemented to combat the early onset of dental caries—also known as tooth decay or cavities—in children ages 6-14 years old.

The school sealant program was implemented on Rota in December 2018, and on Tinian in May 2019, marking the first time in over 10 years that both islands have had such a



Delivery of Bright Smiles, Bright Future kits to the CHCC. From left, Mark Vasquez (Micronesian Brokers Inc.), Derek Sasamoto (CHCC chief financial officer), Dr. Angelica Sabino (chief dentist of the CHCC Dental Clinic/Oral Health Program), Margarita T. Aldan (director of the Division of Public Health Services), and Jeremy Sasamoto (DPHS Immunization Program manager).



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ADDENDUM NO. 1 June 28, 2019 ITB19-GOV-090

Rota High School Renovation & Conversion to Office Spaces

1. Sealed bids must be marked ITB19-GOV-090 Rota High School Renovation & Conversion to Office Spaces. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. Chst, Saipan Local Time, July 12, 2019. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Chst, Saipan Local Time, July 12, 2019 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670)664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 12, 2019 and the bid documents must be received no later than July 23, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., Chst, July 25, 2019. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders from outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m., Chst, Saipan Local Time, on July 12, 2019.

2. Performance and Completion Time for this project is Two Hundred Forty (240) Calendar Days from Notice to Proceed Date.
3. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 240 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.
4. Drawing sheets with revisions are attached to this Addendum No. 1.
5. The revised Bid Schedule is attached to this Addendum No. 1.

Items 4 & 5 of Addendum No. 1 may be picked up at the Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor or email Ms. Kayleena Seman at kayleena.opdcip@gmail.com or Ms Elizabeth S. Balajadia at esb.cip@gmail.com for an electronic file of the revised drawing and the bid schedule. Receipt of this addendum must be acknowledged by the contractor and shall be made a part of the bid documents.

END OF ADDENDUM NO. 1

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Enact election-security reforms now

The first Democratic debates were an important marker on the road to the 2020 election. They were also a reminder that time is quickly running out for Congress to enact legislation that will safeguard against foreign actors' attempts to manipulate the results.

There is ample evidence of Russian agents' multi-pronged attempts to interfere in the 2016 presidential election. U.S. intelligence agencies warn that such interference continues with the FBI director calling it a "significant counterintelligence threat." And in a recent Associated Press poll, more than half of Americans said there they were very concerned about foreign meddling in U.S. elections.

Much of the blame for congressional inaction on this issue has been rightly laid at the feet of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican who has refused to allow elections security bills to see the light of day.

At the same time, Congress' shotgun approach is not helping. Lawmakers must focus their attention on bipartisan solutions and stop wasting time on bills doomed to fail along party lines.

House Democrats' first major bill of the session — the For the People Act of 2019 — took a broad swipe at election security and integrity, voter access, campaign finance and ethics. The bill, which McConnell dismissed as "basically the far left's entire Christmas wish list," failed to earn the support of a single Republican, rendering McConnell's opposition a moot point. Late last week, they passed the Securing America's Federal Elections (SAFE) Act, which would establish grants and set guidelines for election security. Only one Republican member voted for the bill.

The president's gleeful disregard for conventional norms has inspired a deluge of legislative proposals addressing previously unthinkable possibilities, from mandatory reporting of foreign nationals' attempts to influence elections to requiring presidential and vice-presidential candidates to release their tax returns. Each of these are issues worthy of consideration and debate.

But elections security is its own, urgent matter that demands laser-focused, bipartisan solution-seeking. In our divided and rancorous Congress, kitchen-sink bills simply will not fly. Even common-sense protections such as communication between law enforcement and elections officials, paper ballot backups and audits are proving a difficult sell, given ideological differences over spending and state rights.

Congress must devote its full attention to this yeoman's work of negotiating these details — and soon. Leave the news conferences and politicking for another issue, another time.

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I was bused to school. It wasn't enough

By the time I started high school in Mobile, Alabama in 1989, busing was just how it was.

My mother, a host of cousins and all three of my sisters had graduated from Murphy High School, our state's oldest high school, and I wouldn't have dreamt of going anywhere else.

That meant riding a bus seven miles across town (An 18-minute trip, per Google Maps, but at least 40 minutes on a lumbering, un-air-conditioned school bus) didn't even signify. I'm not sure I understood why I'd be bused across town, but I knew it had something to do with Birdie Mae Davis.

The buses I rode to middle and high school were part of a plan to settle a school desegregation lawsuit parents of Davis and other African-American students filed in 1963, nine years after the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

And no one is more surprised than I am that we're re-litigating busing, after a sharp exchange between candidates Joe Biden, the former vice-president, and U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris at the first Democratic presidential primary debates in Miami.

Biden opposed federal busing requirements, arguing that busing should be a local decision. About the same time, the young Harris was being bused to schools in Berkeley, Calif.

Here is what I can tell you about busing: If the goal is to get black kids and white kids into the same building, it can work. And that is not insignificant: Riding a bus to an integrated school helped me understand that all-white spaces are constructed, not coincidental, and taught me to value communities that are diverse.

But that's not enough.

Equity means more than being in the same building. It means access to the same college prep or advanced placement classes, the same career training, the same quality of instruction, the same disciplinary standards, and the ability to see any child, regardless of race or economic background, as worthy of society's time. Worthy of our investment. Worthy of our belief.

These are the problems busing was intended to solve. They're problems we still haven't cracked.

Mobile County is big, about 1,644 square miles, and sits on the Gulf of Mexico and Mobile Bay, about as far south as it's possible to get without swimming.

I grew up in west Mobile, semi-rural when my parents built a home there in 1959, and, as the plaintiffs in Birdie Mae Davis' lawsuit noted, predominantly white. Murphy was in Mobile's more fashionable Midtown, a sprawling 1920s Spanish Revival complex of stucco and red-tile roofs set among older homes.

Davis' lawsuit alleged that the countywide school district we

By NANCY KAFFER
Detroit Free Press



shared, with 93 elementary and secondary schools, had violated the 14th Amendment's promise of equal protection, effectively operating two districts split along geographical and racial lines.

In a 1970 opinion delivered by Chief Justice Warren Burger, the U.S. Supreme Court found that Mobile County had ignored some tools available to integrate the district, and that the plan the district had proposed to solve the problem would still leave 60% of the district's African-American students in 19 all-black or nearly all-black schools. The Supreme Court required the county to do better.

Busing started in 1971. As in most places, Mobile's busing plan burdened black residents the most. And as in most places, whites and blacks were both vociferous in objecting to it.

The first months were hard on everyone.

At Murphy, there were police on campus. So many students missed class that those who did attend were offered extra credit. My mother, along with other parents, served as a hall monitor in those early days.

"We volunteered to walk the halls, and if there was trouble to step in and try to break it up, and to get help right away if we couldn't," she recalled this week.

And there was plenty of trouble. Both black and white students, pushed into a situation for which neither group was truly prepared, seemed at times eager to clash.

Those days, she said, were scary. And sometimes heart-breaking.

"I was up on the second floor of Murphy ... and I heard this loud noise, stomping, and here came these black students up the stairway at the north end of the hall," she said. "I realized they were building their courage up. They weren't trying to be mean and hateful, just trying to say, here we are, here we come, and there are enough of us that you can't get us. That was so sad."

Another time, she says, a white woman was kicking bathroom stall doors to make sure a black student wasn't inside.

"I said, if you ever kick in a door and hit one of my children, you will be really sorry," my mother said. "I got really close to her and I loomed — you know I'm really tall — and she stopped

See SCHOOL on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published.

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Alas, poor *Mad* magazine, pulled under by its own humor wave

What? *Mad* magazine will disappear from newsstands after August? Well, as Dorothy Parker is said to have said after hearing of President Calvin Coolidge's death, "How can they tell?"

After 67 years of publishing elegantly illustrated goofiness, *Mad*'s "Usual Gang of Idiots" is calling it quits — although not quite totally.

DC Entertainment, the division of Warner Bros. that publishes the magazine, says *Mad* will still be available in comic shops and through mail to subscribers. But after its fall issue in August, it will just reprint golden oldies from its 550 previously published issues, DC says, with some new material to be in special editions at the end of the year.

That's sad, *Mad*. I was shocked to hear that the masters of satire who influenced and inspired generations of now-famous writers and comedians, are all but going out of business.

I'm hardly alone in my disappointment. "I can't begin to describe the impact it had on me as a young kid," tweeted "Weird Al" Yankovic, the satirical lyricist and *Mad*'s first guest editor in 2015. "It's pretty much the reason I turned out weird... #ThanksMAD."

Musician and actor Stevie Van Zandt tweeted fond memories of his appearing as part of "The Sopranos" cast on a *Mad* cover. "Making the cover of Rolling Stone was nice," he wrote, "but I didn't feel meaningful until I made the cover of *Mad Magazine*!"

I heard similar sentiments from late Chicago film critics Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert after their first *Mad* appearance. I felt

the same about being depicted in *Mad* back in the 1990s as part of "The McLaughlin Group" — arguing, of course. They didn't mention my name but the illustration helped me to score cool points with my son and his fifth grade pals at the time. Priceless.

But, even as a *Mad* fan since age 11, I had to admit to being a small part of their big problem. I haven't bought a copy since early 2009. That issue's cover depicted a harried President Barack Obama on his first day in the Oval Office, so overwhelmed by ringing telephones and mounting crises that he started smoking again.

I have not been alone, it turns out, in paying lip service to the glory days of *Mad* without bothering to buy any new ones. The magazine's glory days peaked at more than 2 million in the early 1970s, then slipped and slid to its presently meager 140,000.

What went wrong? It's not as if our current media age, enlivened by our former-reality-TV-star president, doesn't provide ample material for satire, sarcasm and ridicule. This, after all, is the first president to inspire two half-hour sitcoms, so far: Comedy Central's live-action "The President Show" and Showtime's animated "Our Cartoon President."

Most obviously, *Mad* failed to keep up with the rapidly accelerating and expanding comedy universe that it helped to initiate and inspire. The vast proliferation of topical humor that has resulted across various media has turned *Mad* into a tortoise among jackrabbits.

After all, why wait a month for the next issue of *Mad* when the next "Saturday Night Live," late-night comedy show or your Twitter feed offers sidesplitting on-point punchlines — once you

By CLARENCE PAGE

Chicago Tribune



Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@chicagotribune.com.

scroll through a lot of rubbish — from a universe of idiots in real time?

I was jerked alert to how much things had changed when President Donald Trump dismissed the entry of South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg into the Democratic presidential race by calling him "Alfred E. Neuman." To which 37-year-old Buttigieg responded by asking, who is Alfred E. Neuman?

"I'll be honest," he told reporters. "I had to Google that. I guess it's just a generational thing."

Ouch, I thought. There goes the baby boomer vote.

But the lovable gang of idiots at *Mad* responded appropriately with the tweet, "Who's Pete Buttigieg? Must be a generational thing."

That's the sort of lovable irreverence that impressed me as a fifth grader at my neighborhood drugstore, perusing the black-and-white pages of this odd comic book. It pushed important new waves of irreverence and reality in our politics and media fantasies, until it was taken under by its own wave.

Soccer stars should avoid normalizing the abnormal

The United States women's soccer team won the World Cup final on July 7 with a splendid shutout against the Netherlands. President Donald Trump said last week that he will fete the team in the White House, despite his annoyance with Megan Rapinoe, a star player who said in graphic and emphatic terms that she would not accept Trump's invitation.

I hope the whole team will decline, as well.

This probably sounds like spite. But a congratulatory visit to the White House would merely reinforce the idea that everything in our republic is fine. It's not. And every American citizen should consider her obligation to avoid supporting the illusion that the Trump administration is a normal state of affairs for our nation.

This has nothing to do with policy. Trump was duly elected, and he has the right to implement policies in response to traditional conservative principles: tax cuts for the wealthy, deregulation of business and industry, the installation of conservative judges, less support for the social safety net and so on.

Many Americans disagree with these principles, but the principles themselves should not undercut the honor of a visit to the White House that many victorious sports teams have enjoyed in the past.

But those "normal" days are gone. The fact that the president of the United States would engage in a Twitter spat with a soccer star — or with Alec Baldwin or Bette Midler or Arnold Schwarzenegger — speaks volumes about the abnormality in the Oval Office.

Imagine the women's soccer team's visit to the White House. The players are capable, accomplished and empowered. Many of them are unabashedly outspoken. Some of them are probably Trump's "type."

Trump, on the other hand, has been credibly accused of sexual abuse and assault by a score of women, and he has a history of bragging about it. At the least, he is sexist and condescending to women. Why expect these young soccer players to meet with such a man and pretend to be honored. There's nothing "normal" about such a meeting and plenty that is just cringe-worthy. No woman should be expected to endure it.

And none of us should fail to notice how abnormal things have become otherwise. There's nothing normal about embracing and encouraging foreign autocrats while alienating allies with whom, up until now, we have shared healthy liberal values. Other presidents have lied, but Trump sets records. And most concerning of all, many Americans find his disengagement with the truth more and more acceptable.

Of course Trump tried to obstruct justice; all you have to do is read Volume II of the Mueller report. The evidence should be shocking, but abnormality is stealthy and before long it begins to look normal.

One way to make all of this abnormality more acceptable is to divert our attention away from it, which is the effect of hosting sports teams for friendly visits to the White House or mounting extravagant displays of military might on the Fourth of July.

Trump's "Salute to America" ignored the majority of American history, during which presidents, legislators and citizens

was 45% black. But it was far from a post-racial utopia.

The honors and AP classes I took were mostly white. Outside the classroom, kids grouped up on racial lines. Black kids ate lunch in the cafeteria, white kids on the lawn.

Some of my classmates remember more racial tension than I do. A white friend recalls being kept home one day because of a rumored race riot that never materialized. (My own mother wouldn't permit us to skip on the basis of such flimsy evidence.) Another friend, one of the few African-Americans with whom I shared honors classes, told me years after graduation that she had felt singled out, never fully accepted.

The Birdie Mae Davis case was finally dismissed in 1997. A majority of the school board, along with the federal judge who oversaw the case, declared that the district had achieved unitary status, in part through the development of magnet schools intended to attract students of both races with superior resources and non-traditional class offerings. It's worth noting that the school board's African-American members objected to the case's dismissal.

By JOHN M. CRISP

Tribune News Service



John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

were wary of strong standing armies. In 1847, President James K. Polk struggled to convince a divided legislature to supply him with enough troops to continue the Mexican War, an unalloyed land grab from a hapless Mexico.

A tall, lanky young congressman from Illinois rose in the House to accuse Polk of appealing to the martial spirit in order to obscure his own misdeeds. His name was Abraham Lincoln.

He charged Polk with seeking "to avoid the scrutiny of his own conduct...by fixing the public eye upon military glory — that rainbow that rises in showers of blood — that serpent's eye that charms but to destroy."

Sure, the July 4th flyovers were cool. But they were out of character with America's traditional celebration of its independence rather than its military power. And for Trump they served as an opportune distraction from the abnormality of his administration.

May the victorious women's soccer team not allow themselves to be used in the same way.

The Southern Poverty Law Center estimates that there are roughly 300 to 350 active desegregation court orders in America. Even in racially integrated districts, equal opportunity remains elusive.

But it's hard not to see that desegregation and educational equity are objectives we've simply stopped pursuing with any urgency. And that's as true in metro Detroit as it is in Mobile, Alabama.

Detroit Public Schools Community District, and the various charter school systems that exist alongside it, are nearly all-black. Suburban school districts are largely white. And when black students enroll in suburban districts, either because of relocation or via programs like schools of choice, white parents tend to leave.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Milliken v. Bradley* — a case filed by African-American students in metro Detroit — that desegregation couldn't require busing across district lines.

And that, largely, was the end of any meaningful effort toward school desegregation in metro Detroit.

Where do we go from here?

SCHOOL

From Page 10

kicking in doors."

For my parents, sending my older sisters to Murphy in those early days — and sending them back day after day, after the school turned violent — was a hard decision, one that required them to live their politics.

I was able to do it because of the parents roaming the halls," my other said.

I asked her how it would have felt to send my sisters to a safer school, at the expense of integration.

"We simply couldn't do it," she said. "It's wrong. Public education is public education."

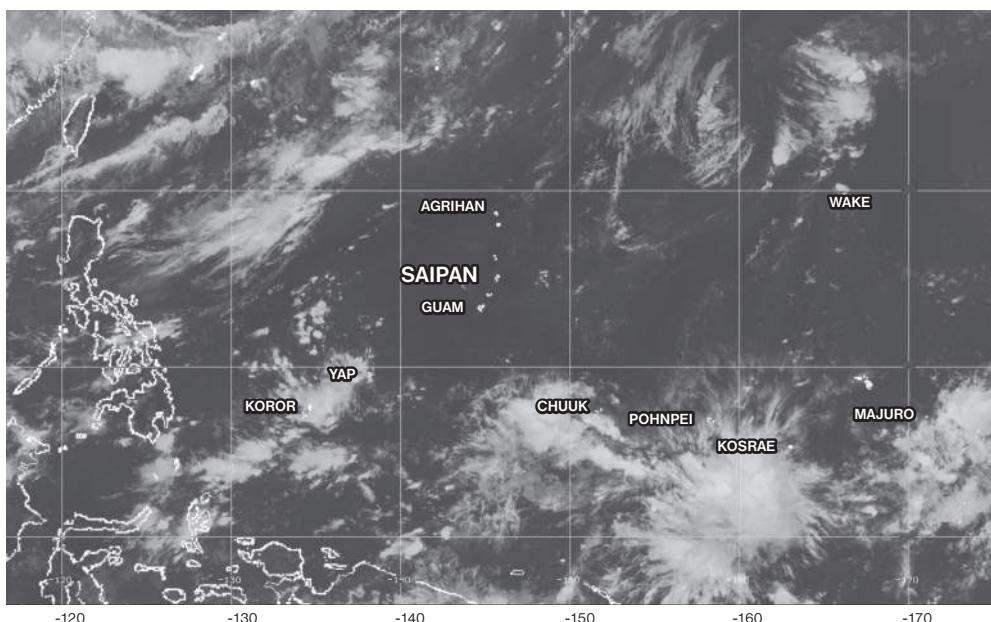
Murphy was one of only a few high schools in Mobile County to achieve something approaching racial parity. Even with cross-town busing; other district schools remained predominantly black or white. By 1992, my senior year of high school, Murphy

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.			
89°	79°	89°	79°	89°
79°	89°	79°	90°	79°
90°	90°	90°	90°	90°
79°	89°	79°	79°	79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:10 AM, MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An approaching upper-level low and trough will bring a slight chance of thunderstorms to the region Tuesday and Tuesday night. The limiting factor for the storms is the lack of deep moisture. By the end of the week, as the monsoon trough drifts further northward near the Marianas, there will again be a slight chance of thunderstorms. Deep layer moisture is looking better for this event, but will maintain isolated showers and slight chance of thunderstorms for now.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88°	/	80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87°	/	80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87°	/	77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87°	/	77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86°	/	81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59°	/	52°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	86°	/	66°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88°	/	81°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	89°	/	77°
London	Showers	77°	/	61°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	81°	/	66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91°	/	81°
Melbourne	Windy	59°	/	46°
Miami	Thunderstorms	85°	/	79°
New York	Sunny	89°	/	71°
Osaka	Showers	84°	/	72°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	75°	/	57°
Busan	Rain	75°	/	72°
Rome	Cloudy	93°	/	75°
Salem	Thunderstorms	91°	/	75°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66°	/	57°
Seoul	Showers	82°	/	68°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	75°	/	63°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	88°	/	70°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
1:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.19
7:38 AM	LOW TIDE	0.96
12:43 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73
7:14 PM	LOW TIDE	0.54

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:02 PM	-	-
Wednesday	-	12:22 AM	12:57 PM
Thursday	-	1:05 AM	1:52 PM
Friday	-	1:49 AM	2:46 PM
Saturday	-	2:34 AM	3:41 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 5, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 9:15am 10:00am Daily				UA174 7:30am 8:15am Daily			
UA105 6:25pm 7:05pm 2, 4				UA104 4:50pm 5:31pm 2, 4			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 4:00am 7:00am 3				7C3452 10:00pm 3:05am+1 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7			
7C3451 4:00am 7:30am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7				7C3452 10:05pm 3:05am+1 4			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 1:35am 5:20am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:10pm Daily			
OZ626 2:20am 6:00am 1				TW307 7:00pm 12:35am+1 Daily			
OZ626 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				OZ625 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7			
7C3403 4:45am 8:35am 2, 3, 5				OZ625 8:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3403 5:00am 8:30am 4				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 1, 2, 4			
7C3403 5:00am 8:50am 6				7C3404 10:40pm 4:10am+1 3, 5, 6, 7			
7C3403 5:10am 8:55am 1, 7							
7C3401 4:10pm 7:45pm 4, 7							
7C3401 4:10pm 8:10pm 1, 2, 3, 5, 6							
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648 6:10am 8:50am 1, 4, 5, 7				3U8647 10:20pm 4:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396 7:30am 12:05pm 1				JD395 8:05am 3:30pm 4			

Guam BBQ Block Party draws 14K BBQ fans to Pleasure Island

TUMON, Guam—The Guam Visitors Bureau is proud to announce the winners of the 7th Annual Pleasure Island Guam BBQ Block Party BBQ Competition that took place on Saturday, July 6, 2019 in the heart of Pleasure Island, Tumon. This year, eight teams competed in three BBQ categories—chicken, pork and beef—to win \$4,600 in cash prizes, and only one was crowned the Ultimate Grill Master Champion. That honor went to chef Peter Duenas, owner and team captain of Meskla CHamoru Fusion Bistro. Chef Duenas has kept this “King of the Que” title for three years in a row from 2017-2019. He was also the first chef to win this title back in 2013.

Serious CHamoru BBQ

The Micronesian Chefs Association (MCA) partnered with GVB to manage and judge the BBQ competition. In addition to chef Duenas from Meskla, past Ultimate Grill Master Champions returned to compete—chef Paula Kerner from Team Guam Community College (2016), and chef Buddy Orsini from Team Åsu Smokehouse (2014-2015)—along with Team Dusit Thani Guam Resort, Team Outrigger Guam Beach Resort, Team Dokgnos, Team Guam Barbecue Company (Tunu), and Team Sea Grill Restaurant.

Specially designed, made-in-Guam trophies and \$4,600 in prize money were handed out to the top three teams in three meat categories of pork, chicken and beef. GVB congratulates the winning teams:

Pork

1st Place - Team Outrigger Guam Beach Resort
2nd Place - Team Meskla
3rd Place - Team Guam Community College

Chicken

1st Place - Team Meskla
2nd Place - Team Guam Barbecue Company (Tunu)
3rd Place - Team Dokgnos

» **Chef Peter Duenas pulls off 3-peat Ultimate Grill Master Champion win**



Chef Peter Duenas pulls off a three-peat Ultimate Grill Master Champion win and Team Meskla wins trophies in each category: 1st place in Beef, 1st place in Chicken and 2nd place in Pork.

Beef

1st Place - Team Meskla
2nd Place - Team Guam Community College
3rd Place - Team Guam Barbecue Company (Tunu)

GVB vice president Bobby Alvarez said, “The 2019 Guam BBQ Block Party really brought people together to share in the Håfa Adai spirit. It was a BBQ party on a grand scale. When 14,000 people gather to share Guam’s BBQ, it is testimony that Guam’s chefs are doing things right, and we have some of the best BBQ in the world!”

MCA secretary Gordon Misuzawa said, “The eight teams have been with the competition for all seven years, and they are the best of the best. The BBQ Block Party is a great event for Guam, and next year, we look to have some foreign competitors.”

Misuzawa noted that the teams started at 2:30pm preparing their grills, and by 6pm the judges began receiving entries for the first category. He

said this year’s entries included new flavor blends that the judges haven’t tasted in past entries. Judges scored each entry based on appearance, tenderness and texture, and taste. The team from Deloitte & Touche LLP tallied the scores to determine the winners.

Family fun

Philippine musician J. Martin opened the program with energizing renditions of pop favorites. As the sun set on Tumon Bay, ukulele musician from Singapore, 14-year-old Evan De Silva performed popular classic rock and blues. Guam bands Fat Tofu and Left Turn Right performed back-to-back acts and kept the crowd lively. Guam’s 4for4 closed the night with upbeat CHamoru, island style, rhythm and blues and rock favorites.

Special thanks

GVB would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the event, from

competitors and vendors to event host Andy Wheeler and performers. GVB extends an un dangkulo na si yu’os ma’āse’ to the Visitor Safety Officers, Guam Police Department, Guam Fire Department and the Department of Public Works for keeping everyone safe. GVB is also grateful for the valuable support from the community and the event sponsors — Pleasure Island Presenting Sponsors T Galleria by DFS, The Plaza Shopping Center, Outrigger Guam Beach Resort, and Dusit Thani Guam Resort; Non-alcoholic Beverage Sponsors Pepsi Guam Bottling and Monster Energy Drinks; Alcohol Beverage Sponsor Miller Lite; with special thanks to KUAM communications, Triple J Five Star Wholesale, Micronesian Chefs Association, Deloitte & Touche LLP, and Philippine Airlines.

About the event

The Guam BBQ Block Party is an annual GVB signature event that closes San Vitores Road in Pleasure Island, between T Galleria by DFS and The Plaza Shopping Center, for a pedestrian-only event, offering Guam’s biggest BBQ competition, live entertainment, activities for the family, food and beverage vendors, shopping, and more. (PR)

GovGuam receives highest GO bond rating since 2002

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Moody’s Investors Service has assigned a Ba1 rating, with a stable outlook, to the Government of Guam’s \$30 million General Obligation (GO) Bond, Series 2019(AMT).

The announcement was made yesterday and follows Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero leading bond rating presentations in San Francisco last month. The Moody’s rating is the highest rating on Guam’s GO bonds since 2002. These bonds will be used to finance a new cell at the Layon landfill and will be repaid using Guam Solid Waste Authority’s existing revenue stream.

According to Moody’s release, “The Ba1 rating reflects the stabilization of the government’s financial position as a result of actions taken to offset the loss of income tax revenues triggered by federal tax cuts enacted in December 2017. It also incorporates Guam’s small and concentrated economy, significant accumulated general fund deficits and debt levels which, while below those of other territories, are significantly

above U.S. state medians. Generally positive economic trends and a good economic outlook, and a favorable pension funding situation are also reflected in the rating.”

Leon Guerrero stated, “Fiscal discipline is the top priority of my Administration. The positive rating from Moody’s indicates recognition of the progress we are making and continue to work on daily. The efforts of my entire Fiscal Discipline Team is to stabilize government finances, reducing and eventually eliminating the deficit while at the same time creating cash reserves through the establishment of a Rainy Day Fund.”

Meanwhile, credit rating agency Standard & Poors (S&P) has also affirmed GovGuam’s GO bonds with a stable outlook with a BB- rating. According to S&P, “The stable outlook reflects the government of Guam’s slightly improved financial profile, albeit with a deficit in fiscal 2018, and commitment to improving operations and setting aside reserve funds as part of its proposed fiscal 2020 budget.”

Leon Guerrero added, “We appreciate the positive ratings by both Moody’s and S&P. I am excited that we are one step closer to taking full control of Guam’s Solid Waste Collection and Disposal program which has been under Federal Receivership for over a decade without having to raise tipping fees and with no need to draw on the General Fund.” (PR)

Soldier arrested for production of child porn

TAMUNING, Guam—The Federal Bureau of Investigations, with assistance from the Guam National Guard and Homeland Security Investigations, arrested Sergeant Jerry Thomas Guerrero II for production of child pornography.

The Guam National Guard worked closely with the FBI in coordinating the arrest, which took place in Barrigada.

This arrest is a direct result of the work being done by the Marianas Child Exploitation-Human Trafficking Task

Force, which combines the resources of the FBI with other federal and local law enforcement agencies to work together to prevent, stop and counter all threats of abuse and exploitation to children living in Guam and the CNMI.

FBI Honolulu Acting Special Agent in Charge Rafael A. Riviere said, “Today’s arrest sends a powerful message to predators across the islands. The FBI’s mission is to protect citizens, especially the most vulnerable members

Business

Congress has ambitious agenda tackling health care costs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lawmakers are trying to set aside their irreconcilable differences over the Obama-era Affordable Care Act and work to reach bipartisan agreement on a more immediate health care issue, lowering costs for people who already have coverage.

Returning from their Fourth of July recess, the Senate and House are pushing to end surprise medical bills, curb high prices for medicines, and limit prescription copays for people with Medicare.

Partisan disagreements could derail the effort, but lawmakers fear the voters' verdict in 2020 if politicians have nothing to show for all their hand-wringing about drug prices. President Donald Trump has political exposure himself because the big price cuts he promised haven't materialized. On Friday, he promised an executive order that he said would be intended to enable the U.S. government to pay lower prices for prescription drugs. The U.S. would pay no more than the lowest amount paid by other nations or companies, he said.

"Frankly, the issue is so urgent for Americans who are facing increasing drug costs that to us it's really not about who gets the credit," said Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo. "It's about what kind of relief we



AP

In this June 20, 2019 photo, the Capitol is seen from the roof of the Canadian Embassy in Washington.

can give to consumers." She serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has a role in shaping the legislation.

In the Senate, Republican Lamar Alexander has shepherded bipartisan legislation on surprise medical bills through the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee that he leads. That bill also would raise the legal age for buying tobacco products to 21.

"Obviously we will continue to have significant disagreements on ... Obamacare," said Alexander. "What we've done is shift our focus to the larger topic—or the different topic—of reducing health care costs." He would like his bill to be on the Senate floor by the end of this month.

Different pieces of legislation are at various stages in a half-dozen committees in the

Senate and the House. The Senate seems to hold the keys to what can pass because Republicans and Democrats have to work together to avoid gridlock on the Senate floor that could sidetrack legislation. In the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., is keeping an open line to the Trump administration on drug costs.

"The public demand for action is high on both sides of the aisle and I'm sure these

guys are feeling it," said John Rother of the National Coalition on Health Care, an umbrella group that represents a cross section of business and consumer organizations. "They have to do something, and the question is, is that something is going to be meaningful, or is it going to be window-dressing?"

A look at some of the major pieces:

■ Medicare Drug Nego-

Boston suburb reflects broad changes in US immigration

CHELSEA, Mass. (AP)—Guatemalan bakeries, Honduran restaurants and Salvadoran markets are joining an already ethnically diverse mix of businesses in downtown Chelsea, a tiny industrial city across the Mystic River from Boston.

Among them is Catracho's, a modest Honduran eatery recently purchased by Johanna Mateo, who was born in New York and raised in Honduras until she was 12, when she joined her older sister in Chelsea.

"I always wanted to reinvest in Chelsea," said Mateo, 27, who plans to expand to a vacant storefront next door. "I like the roots it's set within the Latin American community, and I want to keep it that way."

Chelsea (population, 40,000) is a microcosm of broader changes sweeping the United States, as the number of Central American immigrants increases and the number of Mexican immigrants decreases. Mexico generated one of the largest immigration waves in U.S. history, starting in 1965 and lasting well into this century, until an improved

Mexican economy and lower birthrates helped reverse the trend. Now, more immigrants are fleeing poverty and violence in Central America's Northern Triangle.

Mexicans are still the largest group in the U.S. illegally but are down to 5 million in 2017 from 7 million a decade earlier, while Central Americans rose by 400,000 to 1.9 million and Asians also grew, the Pew Research Center reported last month. Nationwide, Pew estimated 10.5 million people in the U.S. illegally, down from a peak of 12.2 million a decade earlier.

The dynamic is playing out at the state level, said Jeffrey Passel, co-author of the report. Only five states saw statistically significant increases from 2007 to 2017, led by Massachusetts and followed by Maryland. Both are magnets for Central Americans. California, with its large numbers of Mexicans, and other immigrant-heavy states such as Florida, Illinois, New Jersey and New York have fewer people in the country illegally.

The changes extend to immi-

grants regardless of legal status.

In Massachusetts, 8% of immigrants are Central Americans, while less than 1% are Mexican, according to census data analyzed by the Migration Policy Institute. In Maryland, 24% of immigrants are Central American, compared with only 4% Mexican. Nationwide, 33% of immigrants are Central American and 25% are Mexican.

The demographic shifts are transforming the Boston area and helping fuel its economic boom, said Luc Schuster, director of Boston Indicators project.

As recently as 1990, most foreign-born residents in the area hailed from European nations. Today, China, the Dominican Republic and Brazil top the list, he said. No European country even cracks the top 10.

Boston's urban ring cities have seen the most marked changes. Just two decades ago, Chelsea and its neighbors—Everett, Malden, Revere and Lynn—were all majority white. Now, they're among the region's most diverse communities, Schuster's study found.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Program offers training for veterans with small businesses

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP)—A program based in New Hampshire will offer training for military veterans who are small business owners. The Veteran Owned Small Business Growth Training program will equip veterans with resources and networks to grow their businesses. Applicants must be a current business owner with at least one year of operation and one employee, and annual revenues of \$75,000 or more. The 26-week program based in Portsmouth starts in September and will feature classroom and mentoring sessions. The curriculum will include strategic planning, financial management, cash flow forecasting, marketing the small business, sales methods, human resources, developing a growth plan, access to capital, legal issues, and government contracting. The program was recently announced by the U.S. Small Business Administration in a partnership with the Veteran Entrepreneurial Training and

Resource Network.

African leaders to launch continent-wide free trade zone

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Several African heads of state gathered in Niger's capital Sunday to launch a continentwide free trade area that represents an estimated market of \$3.4 trillion. The African Continental Free Trade Area aims to create a single unified market for the continent's 1.3 billion people and to boost economic development. Plans for the free trade zone received a boost last week when Africa's largest economy, Nigeria, became the 25th country to ratify the trade agreement. The general agreement has been signed by 54 of Africa's 55 countries, with only Eritrea not signing up. The location of the zone's headquarters and a timeline for the start of trading are expected to be announced at the African Union summit in Niger's capital. The goal of the new free trade area is to significantly increase trade within Africa. Currently, African countries conduct only 16% of

their trade with each other, compared to 65% among European countries, according to the African Union.

Airstream to represent Ohio at American product showcase

JACKSON CENTER, Ohio (AP)—The company that makes Airstream travel trailers will be representing Ohio at a White House showcase of American-made products. The Sidney Daily News reports the Made in America Product Showcase will be held July 15. The event is in its third year. A White House official said businesses from all 50 states will be present as Republican President Donald Trump seeks to highlight job creation. Airstream Inc. is based in Jackson Center, roughly 80 miles (129 kilometers) northwest of Columbus. The company was founded in 1931. Its 1,000 skilled employees customize Mercedes-Benz touring coaches and hand-build trailers, including the iconic Airstream "silver bullet" travel trailer. Airstream announced a factory expansion last year.

Nation

Quakes push Californians to prepare for the next big jolt

RIDGECREST, Calif. (AP)—Shaken residents were cleaning up Sunday from two of the biggest earthquakes to rattle California in decades as scientists warn that both should serve as a wake-up call to be ready when the long-dreaded “Big One” strikes.

California is spending more than \$16 million to install thousands of quake-detecting sensors statewide that officials say will give utilities and trains precious seconds to shut down before the shaking starts.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said it's time residents did their part by mapping out emergency escape routes and preparing earthquake kits with food, water, lights and other necessities.

“It is a wake-up call for the rest of the state and other parts of the nation, frankly,” Newsom said at a Saturday news conference on efforts to help a desert region jolted by back-to-back quakes.

A magnitude 6.4 earthquake Thursday and a magnitude 7.1 quake Friday were centered 11 miles (18 kilometers) from the small desert town of Ridgecrest, about 150 miles (241 kilometers) from Los Angeles.

The quakes buckled highways and ruptured gas lines that sparked several house fires, and officials said about



Members of the National Guard load water onto an SUV in the aftermath of an earthquake Sunday, July 7, 2019, outside Trona High School in Trona, Calif. AP

3-year-old among 7 killed in Georgia chain-reaction crash

CARNESVILLE, Ga. (AP)—A coroner says a 3-year-old child was among the seven people killed in a chain-reaction crash in northern Georgia.

The wreck occurred Saturday about 80 miles (130 kilometers) northeast of Atlanta on Interstate 85, not far from its approach to the Georgia state line with South Carolina.

The Franklin County Coroner's Office tells news outlets Sunday that three people were killed in one vehicle. They were 33-year-old Chris Years, 34-year-old Ashley Years and 3-year-old Luna Years. They lived in Paulding County.

Four people were killed in another vehicle. They were 53-year-old Alejandro Agis Perez, 39-year-old Noe Gutierrez Cerna, 25-year-old Oswaldo F. Hi Navarrete and 36-year-old Eugenio Santoyo Serna. They were from Hall County.

50 homes in the nearby small town of Trona were damaged. No one was killed or seriously injured, which authorities attributed to the remote location in the Mojave Desert.

“Any time that we can go through a 7-point earthquake and we do not report a fatality, a major injury, do not suffer structure damage that was significant, I want to say that that was a blessing and a miracle,” Kern County Fire Department spokesman Andrew Freeborn said Sunday.

Seismologists said a similar-sized quake in a major city like San Francisco, Los Angeles or San Diego could collapse bridges, buildings and freeways, as well as spark devastating fires fueled by ruptured gas lines.

“We're going to have a magnitude 6, on average, some-

where in Southern California every few years. We've actually gone 20 years without one, so we have had the quietest 20 years in the history of Southern California,” said seismologist Lucy Jones of the California Institute of Technology.

“That's unlikely to continue on the long run,” she added. “Geology keeps on moving ... and we should be expecting a higher rate. And when it happens near people, it is going to be a lot worse.”

Thus the need for preparation, Newsom and others say.

Some Californians, like Greg Messigian of Los Angeles, say they're already taking precautions. His wake-up call came with the 1994 Northridge earthquake that killed 61 people and caused \$15 billion in damage. His San Fernando

Valley home, located just above the fault line, was all but destroyed.

“We had brick walls around the perimeter that had all fallen down. We had cracks in the pool. Inside the house everything that we ever had on a shelf was broken. Television sets fell off the places where they were and cracked. Our chimney was broken. There were cracks in the walls.”

With the help of earthquake insurance, he rebuilt.

On Sunday, the retired schoolteacher was going over his preparedness kit, making sure he had everything he would need for the next quake.

Among the contents: Enough water to last a week, extra shoes and clothes, blankets, flashlights, batteries, food, a cellphone charger and food for the family dog.

On top of that, he has an escape route planned and keeps one car parked in the garage and another in the driveway—in case the garage falls down on the car.

The 1994 quake was not the state's most devastating. The famous 1906 San Francisco earthquake killed 3,000 people. The 1971 San Fernando quake, centered not far from the Northridge quake, killed 65. The 1989 Loma Prieta quake, nicknamed the World Series Earthquake because it struck the Bay Area as the San Francisco Giants were playing Game 3 of the World Series, killed 63.

Kathy Mirescu of Los Angeles said she had been meaning to restock her earthquake safety kit and got a push after the quakes she called the strongest she's felt since moving

Some in other states were taking heed as well. “When you see a place that suffers two huge earthquakes back-to-back like that, I always think what's next?” said Laura Sampson of Palmer, Alaska. “It absolutely makes me think of worrying about what comes next and if I'm prepared.”

Sampson was at home in her community northeast of Anchorage last November when a magnitude 7.0 earthquake shook the area. She said she still needs a better plan for contacting loved ones after a quake.

As people prepared, authorities in rural Kern County repaired roads and utilities.

The quakes sparked several house fires, shut off power, snapped gas lines, cracked buildings and flooded some homes when water lines broke. Newsom estimated the damage at more than \$100 million and said President Donald Trump called him to offer federal support.

Poll: 1 in 4 don't plan to retire despite realities of aging

CHICAGO (AP)—Nearly one-quarter of Americans say they never plan to retire, according to a poll that suggests a disconnection between individuals' retirement plans and the realities of aging in the workforce.

Experts say illness, injury, layoffs and caregiving responsibilities often force older workers to leave their jobs sooner than they'd like.

According to the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, 23% of workers, including nearly 2 in 10 of those over 50, don't expect to stop working. Roughly another quarter of Americans say they will continue working beyond

their 65th birthday.

According to government data, about 1 in 5 people 65 and older was working or actively looking for a job in June.

For many, money has a lot to do with the decision to keep working.

“The average retirement age that we see in the data has gone up a little bit, but it hasn't gone up that much,” says Anqi Chen, assistant director of savings research at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. “So people have to live in retirement much longer, and they may not have enough assets to support themselves in retirement.”

When asked how financial-

ly comfortable they feel about retirement, 14% of Americans under the age of 50 and 29% over 50 say they feel extremely or very prepared, according to the poll. About another 4 in 10 older adults say they do feel somewhat prepared, while just about one-third feel unprepared. By comparison, 56% of younger adults say they don't feel prepared for retirement.

Among those who are fully retired, 38% said they felt very or extremely prepared when they retired, while 25% said they felt not very or not at all prepared.

“One of the things about thinking about never retiring is that you didn't save a whole lot of money,” says Ronni Ben-

nett, 78, who was pushed out of her job as a New York City-based website editor at 63.

She searched for work in the immediate aftermath of her layoff, a process she describes as akin to “banging my head against a wall.” Finding Manhattan too expensive without a steady stream of income, she eventually moved to Portland, Maine. A few years later, she moved again, to Lake Oswego, Oregon.

“Sometimes I fantasize that if I win the lottery, I'd go back to New York,” says Bennett, who has a blog called Time Goes By that chronicles her experiences aging, relocating and, during the past two years, living with a

pancreatic cancer diagnosis.

Meanwhile, Americans have mixed assessments of how the aging workforce affects workers: 39% think people staying in the workforce longer is mostly a good thing for American workers, while 29% think it's more a bad thing and 30% say it makes no difference.

A somewhat higher share, 45%, thinks it has a positive effect on the U.S. economy.

Working Americans who are 50 and older think the trend is more positive than negative for their own careers — 42% to 15%. Those younger than 50 are about as likely to say it's good for their careers as to say it's bad.

Asia

Amnesty seeks international probe to end PH killings

MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—Amnesty International urgently called for international pressure and an immediate U.N. investigation to help end what it says are possible crimes against humanity in the Philippine president's bloody anti-drug crackdown.

The London-based rights watchdog said in a study released Monday that extrajudicial killings in President Rodrigo Duterte's 3-year-old campaign remain rampant and

the scale of abuses has reached "the threshold of crimes against humanity."

About 6,600 people, most of them accused of petty drug crimes, have been killed in the crackdown Duterte launched as his centerpiece project when he took office in mid-2016. But nongovernment groups claim a much higher death toll, including many suspects killed by motorcycle-riding gunmen human rights groups suspect were financed

by police officers.

There was no immediate government reaction to Amnesty's report but Duterte and the police have denied any authorization of extrajudicial killings. Duterte, however, has repeatedly threatened drug suspects with death in televised speeches and encouraged law enforcers to shoot suspects who fight back. He has warned the crackdown would be more dangerous for suspects in the final three

years of his six-year term.

Amnesty said Bulacan province north of the capital has become "the country's bloodiest killing field" after some officers involved in the crackdown were transferred there from the Manila metropolis, which used to be the "epicenter of killings."

"Within marginalised communities, police continue to kill with total impunity, fueling a pervasive climate of fear in cities, towns and neighbourhoods,"

Amnesty said in its study. "The reliance on violent and repressive policies continues to perpetuate human rights violations and abuses in the country."

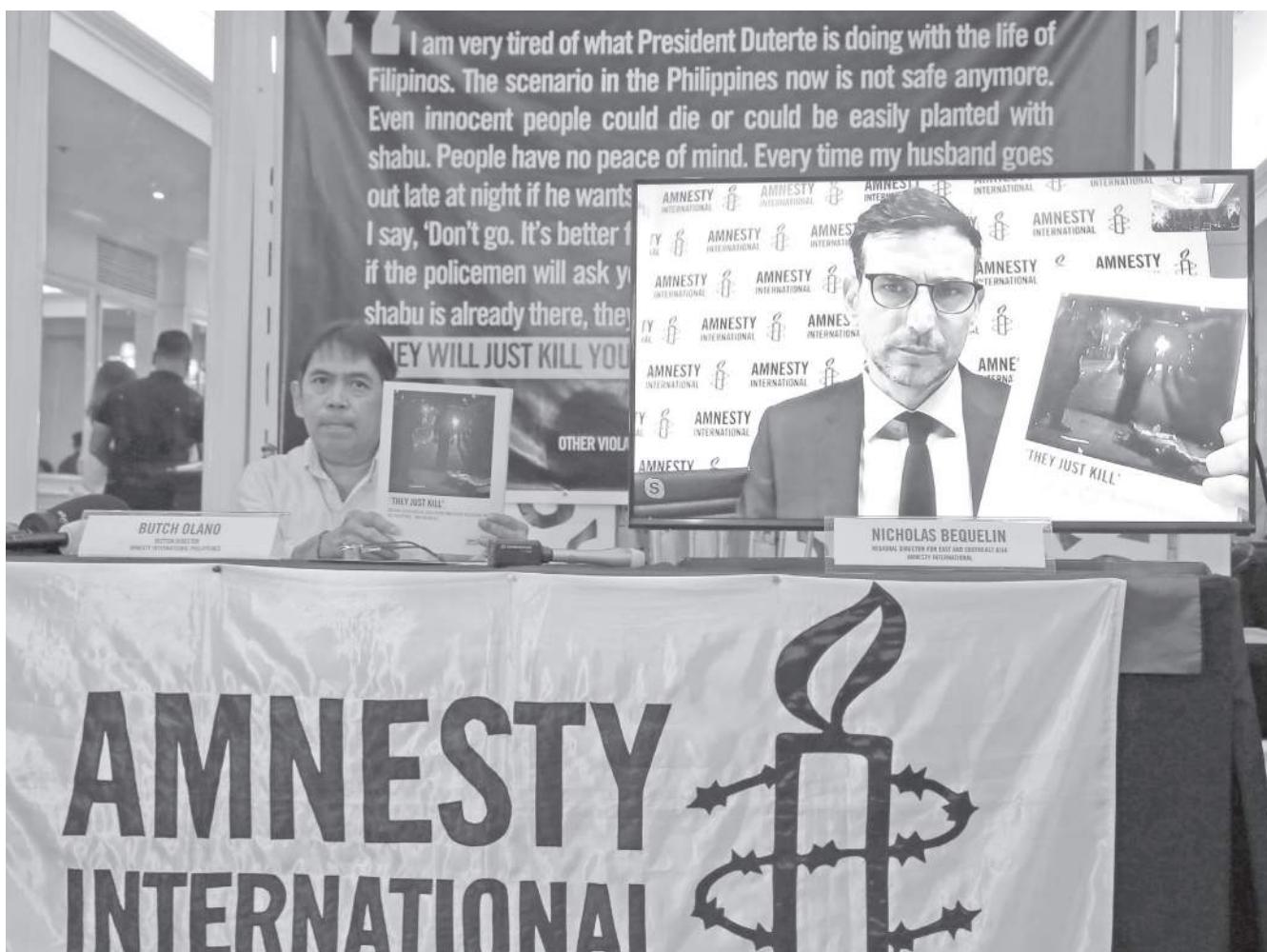
The group said it investigated 20 drug-related incidents in which 27 people were killed across Bulacan from May 2018 to last April by interviewing witnesses, families of the dead, local officials and rights activists.

Amnesty concluded half of the incidents "appear to have been extrajudicial executions" based on witnesses' accounts and other information. The others were murky due to difficulty in obtaining information about the killings "although their broad outlines were consistent with patterns of previous extrajudicial executions," the group said.

Slain suspects, who struggled

to earn a living, were accused of being "big-time" drug dealers, Amnesty said, citing interviews with families of suspects. Police officers always justified the deaths by claiming that suspects fought back during so-called "buy-bust" operations, where undercover agents posed as drug buyers, but Amnesty said it doubted the police reports, saying they did not "meet the feeblest standards of credibility."

Some suspects who police claimed fired back were too poor to buy a gun. Others died after police forcibly broke into homes and opened fire then later claimed the suspects fought back after sensing they were being entrapped in police "buy-bust" transactions, Amnesty said, citing accounts by suspects' relatives and witnesses.



Butch Olano, Amnesty International Section Director in the Philippines, left, and Nicholas Bequelin, Regional Director for East and Southeast Asia, hold a copy of the Amnesty's report during a tele-news conference in Manila, Philippines Monday, July 8, 2019.

Tens of thousands in HK take message to mainlanders

HONG KONG (AP)—Tens of thousands of people, many wearing black shirts and some carrying British colonial-era flags, marched in Hong Kong on Sunday, targeting a mainland Chinese audience as a month-old protest movement showed no signs of abating.

Chanting "Free Hong Kong" and words of encouragement to their fellow citizens, wave after wave of demonstrators streamed by a shopping district popular with mainland visitors on a march to the high-speed railway station that connects the semi-autonomous Chinese territory to Guangdong and other mainland cities.

Organizers said 230,000 people marched on Sunday, while police estimated the crowd at 56,000.

"We want to show our peaceful, graceful protest to the mainland visitors because the information is rather blocked in mainland," march organizer Ventus Lau said. "We want to show them the true image and the message of Hong Kongers."

The march was the first major action since two simultaneous protests last Monday, the 22nd anniversary of the July 1, 1997, return of Hong Kong from Britain to China.

The march through central Hong Kong that's held annually drew hundreds of thousands of people. It was overshadowed this year, however, by an assault on the legislative build-

ing by a few hundred demonstrators who shattered thick glass panels to enter the building and then wreaked havoc for three hours, spray-painting slogans on the chamber walls, overturning furniture and damaging electronic voting and fire prevention systems.

Sunday's march was the first protest against the extradition legislation to take place on the Kowloon side of Hong Kong harbor. The previous ones were on Hong Kong Island, the city's business and government center.

Many of the marchers were young and wore black shirts that have become the uniform of the protesters. The largely peaceful crowd also included older people carrying handheld fans in the muggy heat, as well as parents with children, including some in baby strollers.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Strong quake causes panic in eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia

(AP)—A strong subsea earthquake late Sunday night caused panic in parts of eastern Indonesia and triggered a tsunami warning that was later lifted. There were no immediate reports of major damage or casualties. The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude 6.9 quake was centered 185 kilometers (115 miles) southeast of Manado in the Molucca Sea at a depth of 24 kilometers (15 miles). The national disaster agency said the tsunami warning issued for North Sulawesi and North Maluku was canceled just after midnight, about two hours after the quake hit. It said it was still gathering information but was hampered by loss of communications with disaster officials in North Maluku. A hospital in Manado, the capital of North Sulawesi province, was damaged and patients evacuated, according to a local disaster official.

Bus crashes on highway in northern India, killing 29 people

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—

A government official says a speeding bus has overturned and plunged into a roadside drain in northern India, killing at least 29 people on board. State government spokesman Awanish Awasthi says most passengers were sleeping when the crash occurred on Yamuna Expressway early Monday near Agra in Uttar Pradesh state. The bus was on its way to New Delhi from Lucknow, the state capital. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the suicide attack saying the target was the intelligence service's compound in Ghazni. He said the bombing killed tens of intelligence employees. The Taliban often exaggerate such claims.

Awasthi said 18 passengers have suffered injuries in the crash. The cause of the crash is being investigated, he said. India has the world's deadliest roads, with about 150,000 killed and 470,000 injured annually. Most crashes are blamed on reckless driving, poorly maintained roads and aging vehicles.

Afghan officials say car bomb kills 12, wounds scores

KABUL, Afghanistan

(AP)—The Taliban carried out a devastating suicide car bombing in central Afghanistan Sunday that killed 12 people and wounded over 150 others, said Afghan officials. The attack came as an all-Afghan peace conference, which includes the Taliban, was underway Sunday in Doha in an effort to end the country's relentless wars. A provincial council member, Hasan Raza Yousafi, said the car bomb exploded nearby an intelligence department compound in Ghazni, the capital of the province of the same name. The dead included eight security personnel, he said. Many of the wounded were students of a nearby high school, said the provincial health department chief, Zahir Shah Nekmal. He said most of the injured suffered cuts and abrasions from broken glass. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the suicide attack saying the target was the intelligence service's compound in Ghazni. He said the bombing killed tens of intelligence employees. The Taliban often exaggerate such claims.

World

Iran steps further from nuke deal, adding pressure on Europe

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran increased its uranium enrichment Sunday beyond the limit allowed by its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, inching its program closer toward weapons-grade levels while calling for a diplomatic solution to a crisis heightening tensions with the U.S.

Iran's move, coupled with earlier abandoning the deal's limit on its low-enriched uranium stockpile, intensifies pressure on Europe to find any effective way around U.S. sanctions that block Tehran's oil sales abroad.

But the future of the accord that President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled the U.S. from a year ago remains in question. While Iran's recent measures could be easily reversed, Europe has struggled to respond, even after getting a 60-day warning that the increase was coming.

Meanwhile, experts fear a miscalculation in the crisis could explode into open conflict, as Trump already has nearly bombed Iran over Tehran shooting down a U.S. military surveillance drone.

Trump warned Tehran on Sunday that "Iran better be careful." He didn't elaborate on what actions the U.S. might consider, but Trump told reporters: "Iran's doing a lot of bad things."

International reaction to Iran's decision came swiftly, with Britain warning Iran to "immediately stop and reverse



From left to right, spokesman for Iran's atomic agency Behrouz Kamalvandi, Iran's government spokesman Ali Rabiei and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, attend a press briefing in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, July 7, 2019. The deputy foreign minister says that his nation considers the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers to be a "valid document" and seeks its continuation. AP

all activities" violating the deal, Germany saying it is "extremely concerned," and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a longtime critic of the accord, urging world powers to impose so-called "snapback sanctions" on Tehran.

The European Union said parties to the deal are discussing a possible emergency meeting after Iran's announcement, with EU spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic saying the bloc is "extremely concerned" about the move.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted: "Iran's latest expansion of its nuclear program will lead to further isolation and sanctions. Nations should restore the longstanding standard of no enrichment for Iran's nuclear program. Iran's regime, armed with nuclear weapons, would pose an even greater danger to the world."

At a news conference, Iranian officials said the new level of uranium enrichment would be reached later in the day, but did not provide the percentage

they planned to hit. Under the nuclear deal, the cap for enrichment was set at 3.67%, a percentage closely monitored by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog.

"Within hours, the technical tasks will be done and enrichment above 3.67% will begin," Iran nuclear agency spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said. "We predict that the IAEA measurements early tomorrow morning will show that we have gone beyond 3.67%."

The IAEA said it was aware of Iran's comments and "inspectors

in Iran will report to our headquarters as soon as they verify the announced development."

Ali Akbar Velayati, an aide to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, made remarks in a video Saturday about Iran's need for 5% enrichment. Bushehr, Iran's only nuclear power plant, is now running on imported fuel from Russia that's enriched to around 5%.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sent a letter to EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini outlining the steps it had taken, said Abbas Araghchi, a deputy

foreign minister. Discussions with European powers are continuing and ministerial-level talks are planned later this month, he said.

"We will give another 60-day period, and then we will resume the reduction of our commitments," Araghchi said, without elaborating.

On Saturday, French President Emmanuel Macron told his Iranian counterpart, Hassan Rouhani, in a phone call that he is trying to find a way by July 15 to resume the dialogue between Iran and Western partners. It wasn't clear if July 15 carried any importance. The U.S. has called for a special IAEA meeting for Wednesday to discuss Iran.

Kamalvandi stressed that Iran will continue to use only slower, first-generation IR-1 centrifuges to increase enrichment, as well as keep the number of centrifuges in use under the 5,060-limit set by the nuclear deal. Iran has the technical ability to build and operate advanced centrifuges that work faster but is barred from doing so under the deal.

UK ambassador called Trump administration 'clumsy and inept'

LONDON (AP)—Britain's ambassador to the United States described the Trump administration as "diplomatically clumsy and inept" and said he doubted it would become "substantially more normal," according to a leaked diplomatic cable published Sunday.

The memo was one of several leaked documents published by the Mail on Sunday in which Ambassador Kim Darroch made highly negative statements about the government of Britain's closest ally.

"We don't really believe this administration is going to become substantially more normal; less dysfunctional; less unpredictable; less faction riven; less diplomatically clumsy and inept," Darroch wrote in one memo.

Asked about the leaked cables Sunday, President Donald Trump told reporters that Darroch "has not served the U.K. well."

The United States and the

U.K. enjoy what each describe as a "special relationship" that has held strong since World War II. But the ambassador communicated deep unease with Trump's foreign policies, which have broken with Britain's on key issues such as climate change and preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

Britain's Foreign Office did not challenge the authenticity of the leaked documents, which covered the period of 2017 to the present. It called the leak "mischievous behavior" and said the public expects diplomats to provide honest assessments of the politics in the countries where they are posted.

The Foreign Office said the leaks would not harm the productive relationship between the British government and the Trump White House. A formal investigation of the leak may be set in motion in the coming days.

The British Embassy in Washington informed the White House on Friday that the memos would be published over the weekend, according to a person familiar with the matter, and the two sides were in touch throughout the weekend. The person familiar with the matter was not authorized to speak publicly and insisted on anonymity.

The State Department declined to comment on the ambassador's comments.

It is customary for senior British diplomats posted overseas to file straightforward memos to senior ministers and security services analysts back home so that political trends and possible threats to British interests can be gauged, but it is unusual for a large number of them to be made public.

Justice Secretary David Gauke called the leak "disgraceful" but said Britain "should expect our ambassadors to tell the truth, as they see it."

Malta OKs transfer of 65 migrants from German ship to port

ROME (AP)—Malta's government has agreed to help 65 rescued migrants by transferring them from a German-operated rescue boat to a Maltese military vessel that will take them to a Maltese port.

Malta announced the decision on Sunday afternoon after talks with the European Commission and the German government, while the rescue ship Alan Kurdi was waiting for permission to enter Malta's territorial waters.

The Maltese government said in a statement that "all the rescued persons on board will be immediately relocated to other European Union member states. None of the said immigrants will remain in Malta as this case was not under the responsibility of the Maltese authorities."

The agreement was reached after the vessel operated by German non-profit Sea-Eye decided to head to Malta late on Saturday, after being banned from docking in the

Italian port of Lampedusa.

The decision to change course to Malta came hours after an Italian rescue ship of humanitarian group Mediteranea disobeyed Italian orders and docked in Lampedusa. The over 40 migrants on board were allowed to disembark on Saturday night after the boat was seized by police.

The German ship then asked Maltese authorities to provide a safe harbor as soon as possible, as three people on board had collapsed from the heat.

Malta responded that the three migrants in need of urgent medical assistance will be immediately evacuated.

The Sea-Eye's vessel had rescued 65 people from an overloaded rubber boat in international waters off the Libyan coast earlier this week, but wasn't allowed to enter Italian waters.

Italy's hard-line interior minister Matteo Salvini has introduced a tough stance on

migration, accusing NGOs operating in the Mediterranean of helping smugglers of migrants.

Last week, a 17-day stand-off between Italy and a rescue ship ended when the German captain defied orders and forced her way to a dock in Lampedusa's main port. She is under investigation for disobeying orders and allegedly aiding illegal immigration.

Salvini's refusal to open Italian ports to rescue boats has strained relationships with European partners and Malta, which along with Italy is the preferred destination for migrants trying to enter Europe by sea.

In a sign of recognition to the goodwill of the Maltese government, European Union member states will also take at least half of the 58 migrants rescued in a separate operation by Malta's armed forces, the Maltese government said in Sunday's statement.

Focus

STEPS TO THE MOON

Daring flights 50 years ago

The \$20 billion Apollo moon landing program overcame early tragedy and captured the world's imagination with six successful moon landings.

APOLLO 1 to 10: Rehearsals

Apollo 1 (1967) Planned as first manned flight of Apollo spacecraft, but during a preflight test, a fire in capsule killed all three astronauts.

Unmanned flights (1967-68) Three test flights of redesigned Apollo spacecraft; scouted the moon for potential landing sites.

Apollo 7 (1968) Low orbit around Earth for 11 days; a nearly flawless mission.

Apollo 8 (1968) First human flight to leave Earth's orbit and circle the moon.

Apollo 9 (1969) Tested docking of lunar lander with command capsule; 10-day flight in low Earth orbit.

Apollo 10 (1969) Complete test of lunar landing procedure except for actual descent; brought lander within 9 miles of moon's surface.

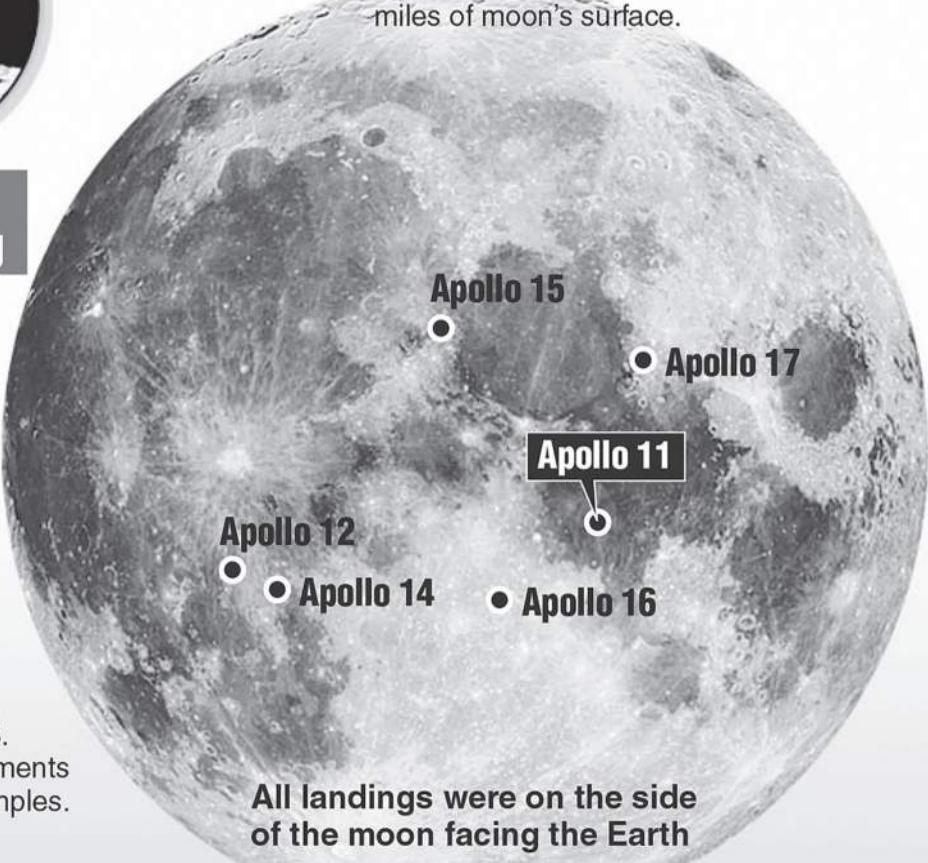
Astronaut Buzz Aldrin on the moon



APOLLO 11: First landing

July 1969

Astronaut Michael Collins remained in orbit while astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong flew the lander to moon's surface. In front of a worldwide TV audience, they erected a U.S. flag, set up experiments and took lunar samples.



APOLLO 12 to 17: More landings and a near-disaster

Apollo 12 (1969) Landed within walking distance of Surveyor 3 robot spacecraft, which had landed in 1967.

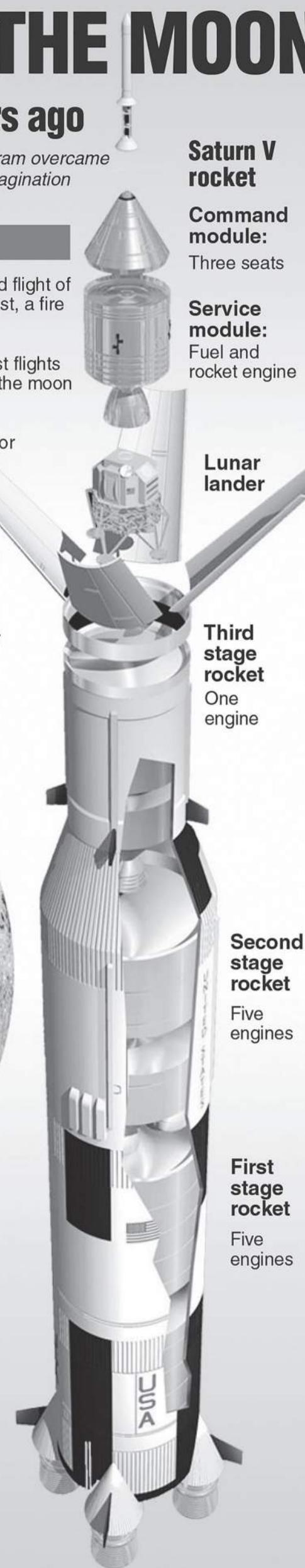
Apollo 13 (1970) Nearly fatal accident. An oxygen tank exploded in mid-flight, damaging command module. Crew used lunar lander as temporary lifeboat.

Apollo 14 (1971) Landed on rocky, sloping terrain; astronauts used wheeled cart to move equipment.

Apollo 15 (1971) First use of "lunar rover" motorized buggy; brought back 4 billion-year-old "Genesis Rock".

Apollo 16 (1972) Stayed on moon's surface for three days collecting samples and testing lunar rover.

Apollo 17 (1972) Last human visit to moon's surface; left behind plaque carrying message of peace.



Saturn V rocket

Command module:
Three seats

Service module:
Fuel and rocket engine

Lunar lander

Third stage rocket
One engine

Second stage rocket
Five engines

First stage rocket
Five engines

Overdrive

By BARRY SPYKER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The Ford Edge has gotten edgier for 2019.

The Edge has become the first crossover SUV in the Blue Oval group to wear the ST (Sport Technology) badge, featuring enhanced performance and sporty styling. Slapping that coveted badge on a midsize crossover may raise some eyebrows.

But it sure looks the part, with piano-black mesh grille (which also enables 40% better cooling) and its big brakes (rear rotors at 13.6 inches) with red calipers. It has aggressive headlights and neat hood creases and flares. "Ford Performance" is emblazoned on the door sills. Dual exhausts are integrated right into the bumper — all pretty cool.

And kudos to a new 2.7-liter twin-turbo EcoBoost V-6 that puts out 335 horsepower and 380 pound-feet of torque. That's 20 more horses and 30 more pound-feet of torque than the previous Edge Sport. Step on the accelerator and 60 mph comes in 5.8 seconds, about a tenth better than the

old Sport model. Top speed is listed at 130 mph.

Stiffer shocks (15% stiffer up front, 20% at rear) and a sport-tuned all-wheel-drive system add grip and minimize body roll. Ford's "Intelligent AWD" can send nearly 100% power to the front or rear, and its torque vectoring system can shift power from left to right for grip and stability on corners.

So what's missing? Well, the Edge somehow still lacks the energetic, horse-bucking feel we expect from an ST. First off, at 4,477 pounds, it's a big and heavy machine. That's great for families, with near

class-leading cargo space, but it doesn't usually spell fun. It holds corners well enough but not with a mischievous grin.

The Sport button in the center of the rotary shifter gets it faster and louder, even if some of that engine noise is being piped in from the speakers. And an eight-speed transmission climbs through the gears smoothly though somewhat leisurely. Go with the paddle shifters for better throttle response and longer shift points, and more fun cornering.

But it's best to shop the Edge ST as a family crossover first, performance car second. It's quiet,

comfortable and functional. It handles rougher roads wonderfully, even with the stiffer suspension. And it can tow nearly 3,500 pounds. Expect around 26 mpg on the highway, 19 mpg around town and 22 combined, according to EPA figures.

Inside, the five-seat Edge has ST logos on the seat backs and steering wheel. Bolstered leather seats with contrast stitching look good and can be heated and cooled. A panoramic sunroof is optional.

The gauge cluster looks a little dated but it does include ST-exclusive display modes for anyone thinking of weekend track runs. Ford's Sync3 infotainment system is among the best in the business — good graphics and easy to navigate through. Plus, with the FordPass Connect app, you can locate and start your car remotely or talk with Amazon's Alexa.

The Ontario,

Canada-built Edge scores high on roominess when it comes to head- and legroom. There are sufficient storage cubbies, but a small phone slot in front of the center console is oddly placed and not easy to use when drink holders are in use.

Rear cargo space is generous: 40 cubic feet with the seats up, 73 cubes with them folded down. It has a hands-free lift gate, too — just swipe a foot under the bumper. But if space is a priority, consider that this is a five-seater and you could get a third row with more storage for about the same bucks. Options packages can hike the Edge's price over \$50,000, too, well into the range of three-row SUVs.

A safety package (\$5,585) includes adaptive cruise control with stop and go, evasive steering assist and lane centering, and automatic parallel parking. The bigger brakes come with 21-inch wheels for an extra \$2,695.

The Edge offers comfort, decent roominess with a nice dose of performance on the side. Not a bad compromise for moms and dads who haven't forgotten that getting

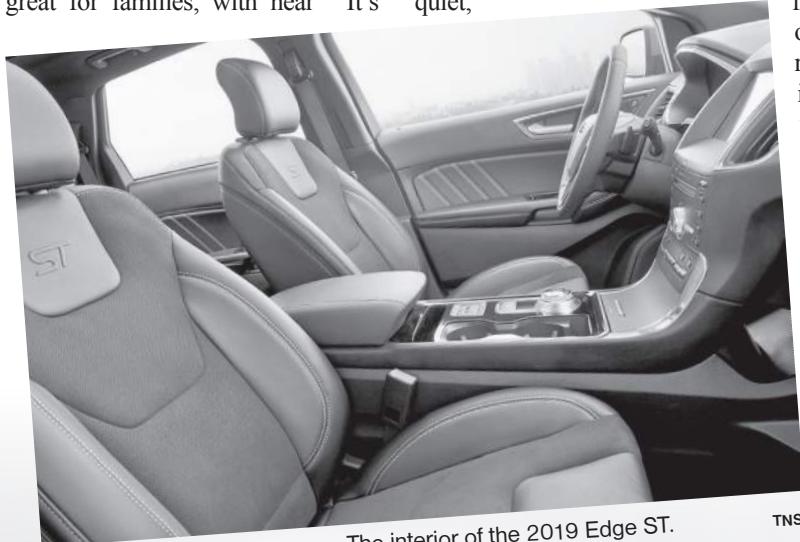
there is half the fun.

Barry Spyker was the automotive columnist for The Miami Herald and editor of its Wheels & Waves section. Readers may send him email at spy2351@yahoo.com.

NUTS & BOLTS

2019 Ford Edge ST (AWD)

- MSRP: \$42,355
- As tested: \$52,225 (Includes Equipment Group 401A with sunroof, evasive steering and park assist, \$5,585; ST Performance Brake Package, \$2,695)
- What's all the excitement about? Edge wears the ST badge: More guts, power and swagger
- Powertrain: 2.7-liter EcoBoost V-6, pumping out 335 hp and 380 pound-feet of torque
- How's the performance? Improved acceleration — makes 60 mph in 5.8 seconds; All-wheel-drive and stiffer suspension improves handling
- What about fuel economy? EPA-rated at 19 mpg city, 26 highway (22 combined)



The interior of the 2019 Edge ST. TNS

TNS

AUTO REVIEW:

2019 Edge ST gets edgier, packs more punch



The 2019 Edge ST. TNS

Under the Hood: Stalling vehicle needs good tech to diagnose

Q: I have a 2008 Chrysler Pacifica with 140,000 miles. I have made many trips to the dealership about one thing or another. They keep charging me but can't find anything the matter with the vehicle. Sometimes when I'm driving, not fast, it will just stop running. I stop and place it in park and it starts right up. No problem then. I have had the spark plugs and coils changed just recently. It still runs like it's missing. The problem continues. I am thinking of having a new fuel pump installed, which would also give me a new fuel filter. What do you think?

—Linda S.

A: This must be incredibly frustrating and scary as you don't know when it might happen next! I need to ask quite a few questions, so please don't be offended if I take some of your statements apart.

When the Pacifica quits, does this happen after driving for a while? Cold or hot weather, does it always occur at the same speed? Does it occur when coasting, climbing? At a particular fuel tank level? Is the symptom quick and sudden, as if someone switched off the ignition, or does the engine sputter or jerk beforehand? How difficult might it be for you to take a technician for a ride and demonstrate the

symptom? Is it somewhat frequent in occurrence?

When you say "missing," are you referring to either an occasional or continual shuddering/roughness from the engine, more noticeable under load (climbing/accelerating)? This could be related to the quitting symptom, and possibly not. A faulty ignition coil is a common cause of misfire (missing), as are spark plugs, but far less common. With 140,000 miles on the clock, your fuel pump is on borrowed time and a possible culprit, although when a fuel pump fails it's usually once and that's it.

A misfire typically results in an illuminated check engine

light, depending on driving conditions and fault severity. A sharp tech with a scan tool can verify if misfires are occurring as well as in which cylinder (in most cases). The scan tool can also be programmed to record a movie of operating data; if you could duplicate the fault for him or her, a snapshot of the instant the engine quits, and events leading up to this could very likely point to the specific fault.

Let's say the fuel pump is the fault. The short term fuel trim readings for both cylinder banks would ramp up sharply within the last few seconds prior to engine speed falling to zero. Or if

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.



the EGR valve sticks on, causing a stall-out during slowing/stopping, the manifold vacuum would plunge just prior to the stall-out.

One of my favorite activities as an automotive technology teacher is replaying a variety of scan tool scenario movies with my students. They play detective, stitching together

the sequence of events, and separating causes from effects.

It seems you need to find a sharp tech. Look for one with an emissions license, ASE advanced engine performance L-1 certification (these are the smartest cookies), and the resourcefulness/desire to work with you to duplicate the fault conditions.

Life & Style

Actor Cameron Boyce dies at age 20

Actor Cameron Boyce, best known for his role as the teenage son of Cruella de Vil in the Disney Channel franchise "Descendants," has died. He was 20 years old.

Boyce, who played Carlos de Vil in the "Descendants" movies, died Saturday at his home in Los Angeles, according to his spokesperson.

An official cause of death has not been announced, but his family released a statement Sunday saying Boyce "passed away in his sleep

due to a seizure that was a result of an ongoing medical condition for which he was being treated.

"The world is now undoubtedly without one of its brightest lights, but his spirit will live on through the kindness and compassion of all who knew and loved him. We are utterly heartbroken," the family statement said.

According to his bio on the Disney Channel, Boyce was born and raised in Los Angeles. He was a dancer who got

his acting start in commercials, then television and film. Boyce starred alongside Adam Sandler in "Grown Ups" and "Grown Ups 2," and other film credits include "Mirrors," "Eagle Eye" and the indie feature "Runt." He also starred in the upcoming HBO series "Mrs. Fletcher."

"Descendants 3" is scheduled for release in August.

His spokesperson said Sunday that Boyce was also a philanthropist who used his celebrity to advocate for those

without a voice, including the homeless. Last year, he was honored for his work with the Thirst Project, bringing awareness to the global water crisis and raising more than \$30,000 for the organization to build two wells in Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, in efforts to bring clean drinking water to the region.

In 2017, he received a Daytime Emmy Award with Disney XD for his participation in the series "Timeless Heroes_Be Inspired," in honor of Black History Month. He appeared alongside his grandmother Jo Ann Boyce, one of 12 black teens known as the Clinton 12 who were the first to integrate into public school in Clinton, Tennessee, accord-

ing to his Disney Channel biography.

A Disney Channel spokesperson released a statement Sunday saying that from a young age, Boyce dreamed of sharing his artistic talents with the world and was fueled by a desire to make a difference in peoples' lives through his humanitarian work.

"He was an incredibly talented performer, a remarkably caring and thoughtful person and, above all else, he was a loving and dedicated son, brother, grandson and friend," the statement said. "We offer our deepest condolences to his family, castmates and colleagues and join his many millions of fans in grieving his untimely passing. He will be

dearly missed."

Walt Disney Co. Chairman and Chief Executive Robert Iger tweeted Sunday: "The Walt Disney Company mourns the loss of #CameronBoyce, who was a friend to so many of us, and filled with so much talent, heart and life, and far too young to die. Our prayers go out to his family and his friends."

Several of Boyce's co-stars reacted to his death on social media Sunday.

Sandler tweeted: "Loved that kid. Cared so much about his family. Cared so much about the world. Thank you, Cameron, for all you gave to us. So much more was on the way. All our hearts are broken." (AP)

Film producer and Holocaust survivor Artur Brauner dies

BERLIN (AP)—Artur Brauner, a Polish-born Holocaust survivor who became one of post-World War II Germany's most prominent film producers, died Sunday at age 100.

Brauner's family said he died in Berlin, the German news agency dpa reported.

Culture Minister Monika Gruetters said Germany has lost one of the most important film producers of the post-war years, saying it was "a great gift for our country" that Brauner chose to make movies in Germany and support its democratic rebuilding. She also paid tribute to his efforts over the decades to ensure that the victims of the Holocaust were not forgotten.

Brauner produced hundreds of films. They included several 1960s revivals of the "Dr. Mabuse" crime movies and other hits such as "Girls in Uniform," starring Romy Schneider.

Several of the films he produced had Holocaust theme, including Agnieszka Holland's Golden Globe-winning "Europa Europa" about a boy in Nazi Germany joining the Hitler Youth to try to conceal the fact he is Jewish.

His "Babi Yar" in 2003 centered on the 1941 Nazi massacre of Jews in Ukraine, in which several of Brauner's relatives were killed. Brauner was disappointed by the lack of box-office success for the film in Germany, saying the test of "whether the German cinema public has become politically more mature" had "clearly nega-

tive" results.

He also had a share in producing "The Garden of the Finzi-Continis," set in Benito Mussolini's Italy, which won the Oscar for best foreign-language movie in 1972.

Brauner described "Morituri," a 1948 movie about a group of concentration camp inmates helped to escape by a Polish doctor near the end of the war, as his most important film. It received a negative reception at the time but Brauner called it "practically the first film that dealt with the issue of Nazi victims."

Brauner believed his lighter post-war films matched the public's taste.

"People wanted to be entertained after the terrible war, and I had a feeling for the needs of the audience," he told the Funke newspaper group in 2018.

His persistence helped. He recalled driving 36 times through communist East Germany from Berlin to Munich in his rickety Volkswagen to persuade the actress Maria Schell to play the part of a penniless pregnant woman in the 1955 drama "The Rats," one of his favorite films.

Brauner said there was no one in the movie business he would never work with again, though there were plenty he would like another chance to work with—among them the late director Fritz Lang, "if he would keep to my budget targets."

In recent years, Brauner was worried by the rise of right-

wing populism in Europe.

"I can only recommend to young people that they don't fall into the clutches of populists around the world and stand up with all their might to nationalism, racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia—now and not when it is already too late," he the dpa news agency in 2018.

The son of a Jewish wood merchant, he was born as Abraham Brauner on Aug. 1, 1918, in the Polish city of Lodz. Brauner discovered his love for the cinema at an early age and often went straight from school to a screening. After finishing school in 1936, he joined an expedition of young documentary filmmakers to the Middle East, then studied in Lodz until Nazi Germany invaded Poland in 1939.

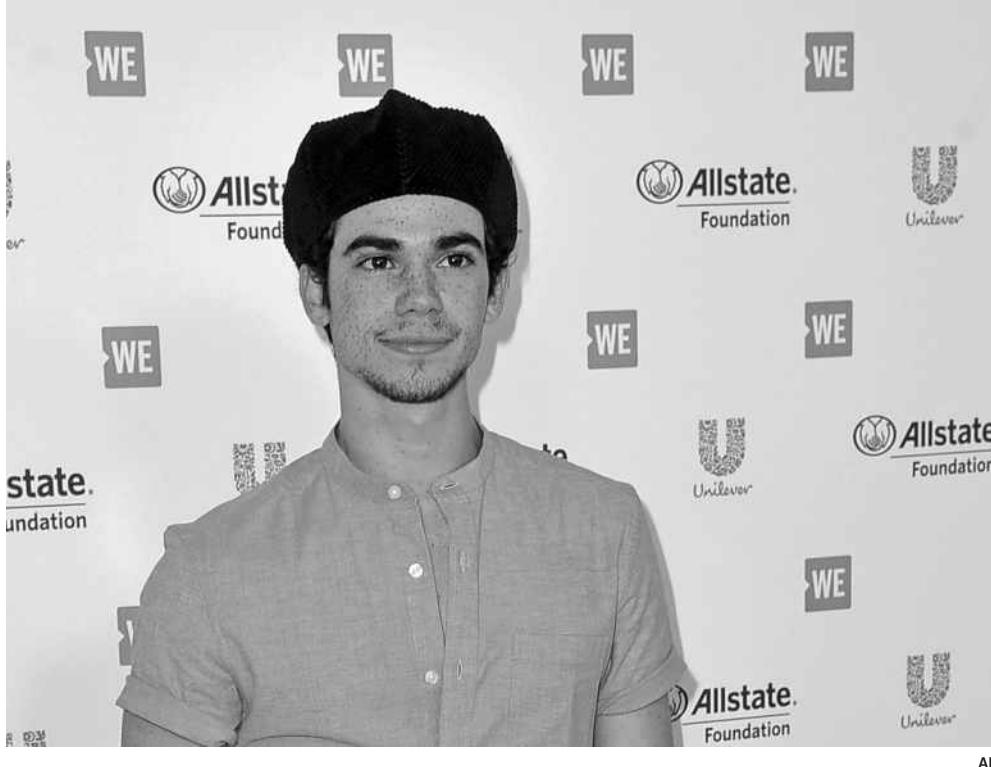
Brauner, his parents and four siblings fled east and survived the war.

His parents later emigrated to Israel. Brauner himself considered emigrating to the United States, but he briefly returned to Lodz, then moved to Berlin with his brother, Wolf.

In West Berlin, Brauner co-founded the Central Cinema Co., which went on to become one of Europe's most important production firms, increasingly expanding into television in the 1960s.

Even as he turned 100, he was discussing scripts almost daily with his daughter Alice. "As soon as I am no longer around, I can give up working," he said.

Brauner's wife, Maria, whom he married in 1947, died in 2017. He is survived by their four children, Fela, Alice, Sammy and Henry.



In this April 25, 2019, file photo, Cameron Boyce arrives at WE Day California at The Forum in Inglewood, Calif.

Brazil leader hit for cool reaction to João Gilberto's death

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)

President Jair Bolsonaro came under fire Sunday for a lukewarm response to the death of a Brazilian cultural icon, João Gilberto, one of the fathers of bossa nova music, which gained worldwide popularity in the 1960s.

Impassioned tributes to Gilberto rocketed around Brazilian media, social and conventional, following his death on Saturday. Bolsonaro, meanwhile, told reporters that Gilberto was "a known person. Condolences to the family, OK?"

Brazilian singer Leoni tweeted that Bolsonaro "doesn't have a clue of the importance of sophistication of João Gilberto."

Leftist lawmaker Marcelo Freixo tweeted, "Today we lost the true Brazilian legend," a snippy allusion to the term Bolsonaro's supporters use for the president.

Bolsonaro has had a rocky relationship with Brazil's artistic community, and has said he

plans to drastically reduce the budget for arts and culture grants, saying that public funding has been going "to the 'famous' people under the false argument that they're incentivizing culture, but are just buying support."

While Gilberto was a relatively un-political figure, a number of his colleagues in the bossa nova movement of the 1960s were openly hostile to the military dictatorship that took power in 1964—a government that Bolsonaro has praised.

Elsewhere, the tone was largely of mourning and remembrance.

The front page of O Globo, one of the country's leading dailies, read, "The last flicker of the old flame," quoting lyrics from one of Gilberto's songs. Fellow artist Caetano Veloso tweeted that "Gilberto was the greatest artist my soul ever encountered."

Gilberto's funeral was scheduled for Monday afternoon at the Rio de Janeiro Municipal Theater.

Gilberto was, "an icon and symbol of a modern, loving, Brazil, full on swing and charm. He's the face of the nation of bossa nova and samba, a symbol of the uniqueness of our people."

With a dig at Bolsonaro, she added, "It's a shame that this genius has left us the exact moment when Brazil is going through an institutional eclipse, dragging us all into an era of darkness shame in the eyes of the rest of the world."

Gilberto's lawyer, Gustavo Carvalho Miranda, told reporters that the artist died peacefully, with his wife by his side. He said Gilberto's son, João Marcelo, will not be able to come to Brazil because he is renewing his visa in the United States and can't leave the country. Gilberto's daughter, Bebel, who is also a singer, was expected to arrive in Brazil on Sunday.

Gilberto's funeral was scheduled for Monday afternoon at the Rio de Janeiro Municipal Theater.

First US children's series with Alaska Native lead kicks off

ANCHORAGE, Alaska

(AP)—Princess Daazhraii Johnson grew up eating dried salmon and moose-head soup—foods labeled weird by other kids who had no understanding of her culture and traditions.

Now the Fairbanks woman and other Alaska Natives are presenting their world to a general audience with “Molly of Denali,” the nation’s first-ever children’s series featuring indigenous leads. The animated show, which premieres July 15 on PBS Kids, highlights the adventures of a 10-year-old Athabascan girl, Molly Mabray. Her family owns the Denali Trading Post in the fictitious community of Qyah,

whose residents are both Native and non-Native.

“We have an opportunity with this show, with ‘Molly of Denali,’ to inform and to show us in a positive and respectful light,” says Johnson, creative producer of the series and a member of an Athabascan group, Neets’aii Gwich’in. Her family has roots in Arctic Village, Alaska, but she grew up all over the state, she says, including summers spent with her grandmother in the Gwich’in village of Fort Yukon.

Native Americans voice the indigenous characters in the series, which is co-produced by Boston-based WGBH and animation partner Atomic Cartoons in collaboration with

Alaska Native advisers and script writers.

Molly is voiced by 14-year-old Sovereign Bill of Auburn, Washington. Bill, who auditioned for the role after hearing about it through a Seattle-based Native youth theater group, is a member of the Muckleshoot Indian tribe in Washington and the T’ak Dein Taan clan of the Tlingit tribe from the southeast Alaska community of Hoonah.

Bill said her mother was deeply touched by one of the stories in the hour-long premiere: a look at Molly’s grandfather, who left his traditional drum with a friend way back in his youth. Molly goes on to find the friend and drum



in another community, using clues in an old photo of her grandfather and his friend to search the internet. It turns out the grandfather had given up singing along with the drum after he was sent away—as scores of Native children once were—to boarding school, where students were prohibited

from practicing their tribal songs amid language suppression efforts. The story ends with the grandfather reconnecting with those cherished traditions.

Bill said her maternal grandmother also had been sent away to boarding school. Given her family’s background,

This image released by PBS shows characters Molly, voiced by Sovereign Bill, left, and her mother, voiced by Jules Koostachin in a scene from the animated series “Molly of Denali.” The animated show, which highlights the adventures of a 10-year-old Athabascan girl, Molly Mabray, premieres July 15 on PBS Kids.

Bill’s mother was nearly brought to tears because of the story’s “good message,” the teen said.

“It’s able to pass on that message through a kind and loving and kid-friendly way,” she said. “But it’s still teaching and it’s still giving those important values.”

directors to come around in a long while.”

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.

1. “Spider-Man: Far From Home,” \$93.6 million (\$238 million international).	10. “Rocketman,” \$2.8 million (\$1.5 million international) Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Comscore.
2. “Toy Story 4,” \$34.3 million (\$43.1 million international).	1. “Spider-Man: Far From Home,” \$93.6 million (\$238 million international).
3. “Yesterday,” \$10.8 million (\$7.9 million international).	2. “Toy Story 4,” \$34.3 million (\$43.1 million international).
4. “Annabelle Comes Home,” \$10.8 million (\$20.4 million international).	3. “Yesterday,” \$10.8 million (\$7.9 million international).
5. “Aladdin,” \$7.6 million (\$16.2 million international).	4. “The Secret Life of Pets 2,” \$10.8 million (\$20.4 million international).
6. “Midsommar,” \$6.6 million (\$761,000 international).	5. “Annabelle Comes Home,” \$10.8 million (\$20.4 million international).
7. “The Secret Life of Pets 2,” \$4.8 million (\$22.4 million international).	6. “Aladdin,” \$7.6 million (\$16.2 million international).
8. “Men in Black International,” \$3.6 million (\$3.7 million international).	7. “Yesterday,” \$7.9 million.
9. “Avengers: Endgame,” \$3.1 million (\$1.3 million international).	8. “Spirited Away,” \$4.1 million.
	9. “Men in Black International,” \$3.7 million.
	10. “Pig Man: Happy Pig Year,” \$3.1 million.

‘Spider-Man’ soars with \$185.1M over six-day holiday weekend

NEW YORK (AP)—It pays to have one of the biggest lead-ins ever.

“Spider-Man: Far From Home,” the first Marvel movie after “Avengers: Endgame,” swung past any franchise fatigue to dominate the July Fourth holiday weekend, raking in an estimated \$185.1 million since opening Tuesday and earning \$93.6 million from Friday to Sunday in North American theaters.

The opening gave Sony Pictures one of its best weeks ever. “Far From Home,” which opened overseas before landing in the U.S., has grossed \$580 million worldwide in 10 days of release.

It also came with an assist from Disney’s Marvel Studios, which has partnered with Sony on this and its last two “Spider-Man” releases: 2017’s “Spider-Man: Homecoming” and last year’s animated spin-off “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse.”

Though “Far From Home”

fell short of the \$117 million Friday to Sunday domestic opening of “Homecoming,” its unconventional Tuesday opening paid off. The film’s \$39.3 million opening day set a record for any movie on a Tuesday.

To help whet the appetites of Marvel fans—and to approach the record \$2.79 billion gross of “Avatar”—Disney re-released “Endgame” in theaters the weekend ahead of “Far From Home.”

Part of the draw of the film, starring Tom Holland as Spider-Man and Jake Gyllenhaal as Mysterio, was seeing the first installment in a new chapter of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. (“Endgame” still narrowly trails “Avatar,” unadjusted for inflation, with \$2.77 billion.)

The strong performance of “Far From Home,” which cost approximately \$160 million to produce, along with the sustained interest in holdovers like “Toy Story 4,” “Yesterday,” “Annabelle Comes Home” and

“Aladdin,” helped the industry knock down the deficit compared with this time last year about a percentage point.

Due in part to a number of underperforming sequels including “Godzilla: King of Monsters” and “Men in Black International,” the year is running 8.4% behind last year. But Marvel has been immune to the ups and downs of sequel making—it’s behind the year’s top two films: “Endgame” and “Captain Marvel.”

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore, thinks “Far From Home” may have turned the tide.

“This movie was exactly the shot in the arm the summer needed, emotionally and spiritually if not financially,” said Dergarabedian, who noted the weekend overall was roughly equal to the same timeframe last year. “The whole notion of franchise fatigue, while true in some cases, is not in all. When movies aren’t great, that’s when people get fatigued.”

Perhaps just as cheering for the industry is how well a number of films are holding.

After two weeks atop the box office, “Toy Story 4” slid a modest 43% to second place, with \$34.3 million. It has now taken in \$650 million globally. Universal Pictures’ Beatles-themed romantic comedy “Yesterday” dropped only 37 percent in its second weekend, with \$10.8 million.

The Warner Bros. “Conjuring” spinoff sequel “Annabelle Comes Home” snagged \$10.8 million in its second weekend. And Disney’s “Aladdin,” with \$7.6 million in its seventh week of release, has accumulated \$921.7 million worldwide.

Just behind those films was Ari Aster’s sun-dappled horror tale “Midsommar,” starring Florence Pugh, drawing \$6.6 million over the weekend and \$10.9 million since opening Wednesday. The debut was well shy of the \$13.6 million opening of Aster’s first-fea-

Intensity of grandson’s devotion to video games worrisome

DEAR ABBY: I have a concern as a grandmother about our youngest grandchild, age 10. He is addicted to video games. There has been quite a lot of publicity on how bad this can be for children.

When we visit, he never comes to greet us or even to talk to us. Once when we were getting ready to go out to dinner, he was screaming at his mom and stomping his feet so hard that the ceiling light was shaking.

We love our daughter-in-law very much, but we feel she wants to be her kids’ “friend” and not a mom. She’s a teacher and is well-educated. Our son, who is also well-educated, does none of the disciplining as far as we can see. We can’t figure it out.

This grandson is only 10 now, but it won’t be long until he’s 13. I am afraid he will get violent with his mom or even hurt himself. Should we mind our own business and just look away? We have never interfered in our children’s business.

WORRIED GRANDPARENT IN THE SOUTH

DEAR WORRIED: A 10-year-old child having a full-blown tantrum (which is what you describe) is not normal. He should have learned to regulate his emotions by now. There may be things going on with your grandson that you’re not aware of. I do think you should mention to your son and daughter-in-law that you are concerned and why.

DEAR ABBY: We have lived next door to a woman with a short temper for 20 years. Our driveways are extremely long. Hers has a big slope on the side closer to our home, which she cannot mow with her tractor. She asked us to mow that area with our push mower because she doesn’t have one, so for the past 15 years, we have. It takes only 10 minutes, so we really don’t mind at all.

Last Friday, I was running late to go out of town. I didn’t spend as much time as usual on the yard, and I received this text from her: “Good evening. I really appreciate that you and (your husband) keep the strip between our houses mowed, but I just paid \$400 to get my driveway power washed. That’s a lot of money to get it all moldy again so quickly, so can one of you please come and sweep off the driveway before the rain starts falling tomorrow?” My husband went and spent the 60 seconds it took to sweep it, but I don’t know how to reply to her text. Any thoughts would be greatly appreciated.

MOWED DOWN IN THE EAST

DEAR MOWED DOWN: Is your neighbor so infirm or aged that she is physically unable to sweep her driveway? If the answer is yes, then let it ride. If the answer is no, text her back and offer to buy her a broom.

DEAR ABBY: If I have several guests sitting around chat-

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ting, and they start getting loud discussing politics or religion, would it be rude for me to say, “No discussing politics or religion”? Some friends become very loud. I guess they think if they yell, people will abide by what they have to say.

MEDIATING IN TEXAS

DEAR MEDIATING: It would not be rude to say, “Hey, folks, this is getting heated, so let’s change the subject. Now.”

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

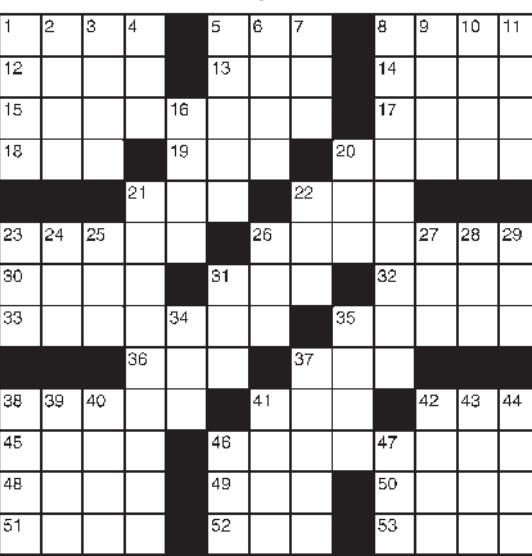
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Bond	3 Taj Mahal	22 Rm.
1 Flair	rating	city	coolers
5 Karaoke	38 Therefore	4 Word of	23 Hoover's
prop. for	41 Cover	denial	org.
short	42 Went first	5 Showy	24 Coffee
8 Empo-	45 Blue hue	parrot	vessel
rium	46 Preach	6 Egyptian	25 Speed
12 Toy block	48 Wreck	deity	(up)
name	49 "Hail,	7 Tax pro	26 Soul, to
13 Nile viper	Caesar!"	8 Tempo-	Sartre
14 Sharif of	50 Deserve	9ary sus-	27 Snooze
film	51 Young	pensions	28 Decade
15 Wife of	foxes	9 Latin love	parts
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Addams	Moines	review	29 Spring
17 Wander	53 Tea	11 "— chic!"	month
18 — whim	carrier	16 Composer	31 Glacial
19 Tank filler	20 "It's c-c-	Stravinsky	34 Anger
20 Exposes	cold!"	35 "There!"	37 Buenos
21 Cut the	Muppet	36 —	38 "Listen!"
lawn	21 Casa-	39 Iso-	40 Night, in
22 Gallery	blanca	41 Cupid's	Paris
display	denizens	realm	42 Tale
23 Uproar	42 —	teller	43 Pound of
26 NAACP,	43 —	verse	44 Say it
for one	44 —	isn't so	45 Irate
30 Rabbit's	45 —	46 Rent	47 Rent
title	46 —	out	out

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 7-9



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5956 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fred Savage, 43; Jack White, 44; Tom Hanks, 63; Jimmy Smits, 64.

Happy Birthday: Look for the good in everything and everyone. Learn by observing, and practice using positive means to accomplish the most. Learn to play and laugh more, and you'll get more done during the time you allow for work. Being balanced will lead to greater freedom and encourage you to be receptive to concepts you may have discouraged in the past. Your numbers are 7, 10, 23, 29, 32, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Steer clear of melodrama at home or at work. Your emotions will be difficult to control if you don't keep busy. Look at the choices you have, and give others as much space as needed to avoid an argument. ☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put greater emphasis on learning, discovery and trying something new. If you look for fault, you are bound to find it. Choose to have a positive attitude, regardless of what others do or say. ☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Discuss what you want to happen with someone close to you. A discussion will help you flush out any problems that can develop before you invest too much time, money or emotions into something. Honesty is the best policy. ☀☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Remember past mistakes that led to an argument or emotional meltdown, and don't make the same slip-up again. Choose to take a different route, approach or stance to ensure you keep the peace.

Substantial improvements can be made. ☀☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Share your thoughts. Participate in business events or volunteer services that can lead to new opportunities. You may crave change, but it has to be the right move before you proceed. Listen, verify the information you receive and carry on. ☀☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Go about your business if someone overreacts.

Make a change that will encourage you to be around positive individuals who are supportive and willing to pitch in and help. You may want to consider changing your lifestyle or personal situation. ☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Distance yourself from people who try to control or manipulate you. Use your intelligence to deal with matters that can affect your position or reputation. Making a fuss will make things worse. Be direct to avoid being backed into a corner. ☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take the initiative, and carry on as planned. Your actions will be what shape the possibilities that lay ahead. Show someone you love how much you care by taking the time to appreciate the little things he or she does for you. ☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Discuss what you want to happen with someone close to you. A discussion will help you flush out any problems that can develop before you invest too much time, money or emotions into something. Honesty is the best policy. ☀☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Remember past mistakes that led to an argument or emotional meltdown, and don't make the same slip-up again. Choose to take a different route, approach or stance to ensure you keep the peace.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be smart when it comes to money, health and legal issues. Listen carefully, and respond only to what's necessary. Don't give in to someone who is making a fuss or giving you an ultimatum. You can't buy love or respect. ☀☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't get down; get moving. Refuse to let emotions interfere with what you know you should do. A change at home will bring peace of mind, even if it's not exactly what you want to happen. ☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Distance yourself from people who try to control or manipulate you. Use your intelligence to deal with matters that can affect your position or reputation. Making a fuss will make things worse. Be direct to avoid being backed into a corner. ☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take the initiative, and carry on as planned. Your actions will be what shape the possibilities that lay ahead. Show someone you love how much you care by taking the time to appreciate the little things he or she does for you. ☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A creative pursuit will change the way you move forward. Consider turning one of your skills or ideas into a second income. Start small, and use your connections to help you grow at a rate you can handle. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, caring and stubborn. You are dedicated and transparent.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwords. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

STEVE, STEVEN, STEPHEN, STEPH OR STEVIE. Solution: 6 letters

Y	M	A	L	L	A	H	S	K	C	A	B	W	S
E	Y	A	O	L	A	N	Y	D	R	A	K	O	O
V	L	O	R	K	E	K	E	D	D	A	G	K	Z
R	A	R	U	T	I	W	V	W	N	O	M	T	N
A	G	R	A	N	I	W	R	I	O	A	N	I	I
G	A	E	G	E	N	A	A	T	H	L	D	A	W
R	E	K	H	R	K	S	H	S	H	O	F	V	K
E	S	S	E	O	S	Y	P	Y	R	F	O	M	E
B	A	E	O	R	D	I	D	U	R	E	C	R	L
N	N	C	S	E	E	S	R	O	R	N	Y	A	A
E	C	A	O	L	B	D	R	A	R	L	O	R	O
T	U	R	B	O	L	U	Y	I	A	L	I	Y	M
T	R	E	J	E	G	I	R	T	E	H	A	E	E
U	R	L	A	C	Y	A	T	N	R	M	O	O	R
G	Y	L	Z	A	H	N	N	S	S	M	I	T	H

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Allen, Aoki, Backshall, Burns, Carell, Coogan, Cook, Cory, Curry, Ditko, Dorff, Earle, Fry, Gadd, Garvey, Greene, Guttenberg, Harris, Harvey, Harwell, Howe, Hyde, Irwin, Jobs, Kardinal, Kerr, King, Lacy, Land, Larmer, Martin, May, McNair, Moore, Moyer, Nash, Peacocke, Root, Seagal, Smith, Spielberg, Spurrier, Stamkos, Stills, Tyler, Vai, Wilkos, Wozniak, Young, Zahn

Yesterday's Answer: Sweetest Thing

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 38, 40, and 42 through 56, go online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1			5			8		9					
	4			6	3								
3	5		7				1						
	9				4			1					
8	2					9							
	4			3		5	6						
	9	8			7								
7	3			9				2					

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

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- Analyze recipes to assign prices to menu items, based on food, labor and overhead costs.
- Arrange for equipment purchases or repairs.
- Check the quality of raw or cooked food products to ensure that standards are met.
- Check the quantity and quality of received products.
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Rockets interested in trade for Westbrook



HOUSTON—The Oklahoma City Thunder might be hurtling toward a rebuild after Paul George forced his way out of the team to join Kawhi Leonard on the Los Angeles Clippers.

The next big step would likely be a trade that sends away Russell Westbrook, though finding a team with a desire for the divisive star and the cap space to fit him could be tricky. Case in point: the Houston Rockets.

The Rockets are interested in a trade for Westbrook, according to ESPN's Tim MacMahon, though a source reportedly described the prospect of adding the point guard as a "long shot."

While adding Westbrook would certainly be a bold move for one of the NBA's bolder general managers in Daryl Morey, it could be difficult to pull off.

The main problem might be Rockets point guard Chris Paul, who is still due \$125 million over the next three years. You'd figure any Rockets trade for Westbrook would have to include Paul going the other way, though MacMahon noted that might be the case.

Despite that, it's hard to imagine that the Rockets would want three point guards with cap hits exceeding \$38 million—Westbrook, Paul and James Harden—on their roster.

Rockets tried to get Butler

This is the second highly aggressive plan from the Rockets to come to light this off-season, as the team was earlier reported to be interested in a



sign-and-trade for Jimmy Butler, who opted to join the Miami Heat instead. ESPN reports that the team didn't even get a meeting with Butler, a Houston native.

Among the possible pieces in a trade for Butler were reportedly Clint Capela and Eric Gordon, so you could imagine those players being on the table for Westbrook as well. It's still an odd fit though, as the Rockets probably aren't going to want to give up much if they're taking on Westbrook's cap hit.

Adding Westbrook would also be quite something for a team with reported locker room issues, though it would at least be a fun reunion for Harden and Westbrook, who

were teammates on the Thunder way back when and might work better together than Harden and Paul's pairing.

Durant officially joins Nets

The deal bringing Kevin Durant to Brooklyn is official, and he's changing his number along with his address.

The Nets completed a sign-and-trade with the Golden State Warriors on Sunday night, with Brooklyn landing Durant and a protected first-round pick in next year's draft for D'Angelo Russell, Shabazz Napier and Treveon Graham.

Durant said last week he would sign a max deal with Brooklyn, which would be

\$141 million over four years, after three seasons with the Warriors. The rest of the deal was worked out over subsequent days, and the NBA signed off on the terms Sunday.

"Along with the rest of the league, our coaching staff has long admired Kevin's incredible skill, resilience and tenacity," Nets coach Kenny Atkinson said. "He has already established himself as a champion and one of the best players of all-time, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome him into our program in Brooklyn."

Durant isn't expected to play at all next season while he recovers from an Achilles injury. When he does return to join a new-look Nets team that

added Kyrie Irving as well this summer and officially signed him Sunday, he'll wear No. 7—after playing in No. 35 throughout his career.

Durant released a statement saying he wore 35 to honor someone "very near and dear" to him.

"But as I start this new chapter in my basketball life, the number I'll be wearing on my back is the Number 7 next time you see me on the floor," Durant said.

Durant is a perennial All-Star and two-time NBA champion after winning Finals MVP honors with the Warriors in 2017 and 2018. He's a four-time scoring champion and his 22,940 points ranks third among active players. He

missed most of this past season's playoffs, first with a calf injury and then the Achilles rupture during the NBA Finals—a series Golden State lost to Toronto in six games.

Wright moves to Mavs

A person with direct knowledge of the deal says the Dallas Mavericks have acquired guard Delon Wright from the Memphis Grizzlies in a sign-and-trade agreement that could make the restricted free agent a starter alongside rookie of the year Luka Doncic.

Wright and the Mavericks have agreed on a \$29 million, three-year contract, agent Greg Lawrence said Sunday. The Grizzlies will get two second-round picks in the trade, the person told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal hasn't been announced.

The move by the Mavericks comes after they missed out on free agent target Danny Green, a shooting guard and strong defender who agreed on a contract with the Los Angeles Lakers after former Toronto teammate Kawhi Leonard chose the LA Clippers over returning to the Raptors.

The 6-foot-5 Wright has a chance to be a solid complement to Doncic because of his versatility on defense. The 27-year-old was chosen 20th overall in the first round by the Raptors in 2015, one pick before the Mavericks selected Justin Anderson. The Grizzlies got him in the trade that sent Marc Gasol to Toronto before the deadline last season.

Wright spent parts of his first two seasons shuffling between the Raptors and their G-League affiliate.

Kawhi conspiracy theory heightens Lakers-Clippers intrigue

If you believe in a good conspiracy theory—and if you like the NBA, you might enjoy a good conspiracy theory—here's one that will add fuel to the heightened Clippers-Lakers rivalry in Los Angeles.

The Clippers and Kawhi Leonard sabotaged the Los Angeles Lakers' free-agent plans by waiting deep into free agency to announce Leonard's signing, making the Lakers wait while other teams signed quality free agents and leaving the Lakers with limited options by the time Leonard decided.

Making the theory even more diabolical is that Clippers consultant Jerry West is an all-time Lakers great—a Hall of Famer and great executive for decades with the Lakers—and his son, Ryan, is the Lakers' director of player personnel.

It is a delicious conspiracy theory to entertain given the involved parties (no love lost between the two franchises), stakes (championships) and cutthroat business competition (the NBA is an \$8 billion-a-year operation).

It is an unlikely scenario. But there's enough intriguing evidence that gives plausible credence to the idea. That's the beauty of conspiracy theories. The event probably didn't happen, but there's a trail of breadcrumbs to make you believe it could have.

If the Lakers didn't believe they had a chance at Leonard, they would have tried to sign the non-max salary free agents at the start of free agency. Instead, they waited for Leonard and missed out on players that would've made the Lakers a better team.

In fact, even before free agency began, smart basketball minds believed it was best if the

Lakers skipped out on a max-salary free agent such as Leonard or Kyrie Irving and focused on building a strong roster with shooters and perimeter defenders around LeBron James and Anthony Davis.

It's clear the Lakers were all-in on trying to sign Leonard, and there's no way to spin that loss. But there is some consolation. Had the Lakers signed Leonard, they would've been limited with their spending power for the rest of the roster.

At the very least—and this is the most favorable spin for the Lakers—Leonard's decision forced the Lakers to have some depth.

All things considered, given which players were available after the Clippers got Leonard and George, the Lakers managed to do OK.

They signed Danny Green for shooting and perimeter defense, added point guard Quinn Cook and big man DeMarcus Cousins, who formed a nice combo with Davis when he was healthy in New Orleans. The Lakers also re-signed Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and JaVale McGee.

The Lakers are better than they were last season, and don't forget, they were a playoff-bound team before James' injury.

Right now, the Lakers aren't the best team in the Western Conference. They might not even be the second- or third-best. But they have James and Davis, and the 2019-20 season should be compelling — conspiracy theories and all—with the Lakers sharing the same building as the Clippers.

Astros win; Angels catcher Lucroy falls

 HOUSTON (AP)—George Springer hit a game-ending, RBI single in the 10th inning and the Houston Astros beat the Angels 11-10 Sunday after a violent collision at home plate knocked Los Angeles catcher Jonathan Lucroy out of the game.

The Astros' Yuli Gurriel hit a grand slam to homer in his fifth straight game, and All-Star Ryan Pressly (2-1) allowed one hit in a scoreless 10th for the win.

Josh Reddick led off Houston's 10th with a double off Taylor Cole (0-1) before Springer hit a ball to the right-center gap with one out to give Houston the victory.

Mike Trout homered twice for the Angels, who watched Lucroy get carted off in the eighth inning after being bowled over by Jake Marisnick. Lucroy was taken to a hospital, and the team said he would get a CT scan and be evaluated for a concussion and nose fracture.

Indians 11, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Greg Allen homered and tripled among his career-high four hits, Trevor Bauer stayed hot with seven solid innings and the Indians beat the Reds.

Jake Bauers hit a two-run homer and Tyler Naquin and Jason Kipnis added solo shots, helping Cleveland to a season-high sixth straight win.

Bauer (8-6) improved to 4-0 with a 2.90 earned-run average over his last six starts.

Tyler Mahle (2-9) took the loss.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 3

In Phoenix, Alex Young tossed six no-hit innings in his second career start, Eduardo Escobar had three RBIs and the Diamondbacks completed a three-game sweep with a win over the Rockies.

Young (2-0) was stellar in his Chase Field debut, allowing one batter over the minimum after walking Tony Wolters in the third inning.

The 23-year-old left-hander was replaced by Yoshihisa Hirano to open the seventh inning after 71 pitches.

Rays 2, Yankees 1

In St. Petersburg, Charlie Morton struck out 10 in 5 2/3 innings to help the Rays split a four-games series with the AL East-leading Yankees.

Morton (10-2) allowed one run, five hits and one walk in lowering his AL-best ERA to 2.32. The AL All-Star has given up two or fewer runs in 15 of 19 starts.

Emilio Pagan, the fourth Tampa Bay reliever, worked the ninth to get his fifth save



and complete the five-hitter.

Phillies 8, Mets 3

In New York, Aaron Nola held the Mets hitless into the sixth inning, Jay Bruce homered twice and the Philadelphia Phillies quieted the Mets.

Rookie Pete Alonso hit his 30th home run to break up Nola's no-hit bid.

Bruce drove in four runs against his former team and Rhys Hoskins homered as the Phillies took two of three in the series.

The Phils headed into the All-Star break at 47-43.

The feuding NL East rivals kept their cool and there were no warnings from the umpires, a day after a tense game in which Jake Arrieta hit Todd Frazier and later said if the Mets veteran was still upset,

"he can come see me and I'll put a dent in his skull."

Braves 4, Marlins 3

In Atlanta, Josh Donaldson capped his strong first-half finish by hitting a two-run homer and Charlie Culberson's defensive play helped the Braves escaped a bases-loaded jam in the ninth to beat the Marlins.

The Braves are 10-2 against the Marlins this season and 24-7 the past two seasons.

Dallas Keuchel (2-2) allowed two runs in 7 1/3 innings in his fourth start since signing with Atlanta on June 7.

Pirates 6, Brewers 5

In Pittsburgh, red-hot rookie Bryan Reynolds hit a three-run home run in the seventh

inning to lift the Pirates over the Brewers in their final game before the All-Star break.

The estimated 403-foot shot cleared the seats beyond the fence in right-center field and bounced toward the Allegheny River. Reynolds' seventh homer of the season came after Kevin Kramer walked and Adam Frazier singled off reliever Junior Guerra (3-2).

Nationals 5, Royals 2

In Washington, Anthony Rendon doubled in the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning, Brian Dozier and Victor Robles homered, and the Nationals beat the Royals.

Washington has won 10 of 12 to climb past Philadelphia into second place in the NL East. Since sinking to 19-31 on May 23, the Nationals have gone 28-11 and lost only one of 13 series.

Starting pitching has been a big reason for the turnaround. In extending a trend, left-hander Patrick Corbin struck out 11 and scattered five hits over seven scoreless innings.

White Sox 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Iván Nova pitched shutout ball into the sixth inning for his first home win in eight tries, Eloy Jiménez and José Abreu homered, and the White Sox beat the crosstown Cubs.

Nova (4-7) finally picked up a victory at Guaranteed Rate Field after going 0-4 with an 8.31 ERA in his first seven starts there. The right-hander allowed five hits over 5 2/3

innings, struck out four and walked one.

Giants 1, Cardinals 0

In San Francisco, Evan Longoria homered with one out in the seventh inning to break up Jack Flaherty's bid for a no-hitter, and the Giants held on to beat the Cardinals.

The Giants managed only one baserunner against Flaherty (4-6) until Longoria drove a 0-1 pitch into the left field stands.

Rangers 4, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Rougned

Odor's three-run homer in the 11th inning gave the Rangers a win against the Twins.

Odor's 13th homer of the season, into the bullpens in left-center field, came off Minnesota left-hander Adalberto Mejía (0-2). Mejía walked Joey Gallo and Asdrúbal Cabrera ahead of Odor's one-out home run.

Red Sox 6, Tigers 3

In Detroit, David Price pitched one-run ball over five innings, Christian Vazquez and Xander Bogaerts each drove in two

Houston Astros' Jake Marisnick, right, collides with Los Angeles Angels catcher Jonathan Lucroy (20) while trying to score during the eighth inning of a baseball game Sunday, July 7, 2019, in Houston. Marisnick was called out under the home plate collision rule.

runs, and the Red Sox beat the Tigers to complete a three-game sweep.

Boston has won four straight and 15 of 22 entering the All-Star break.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 1

In Toronto, Trent Thornton pitched six shutout innings to win for the first time in four starts, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a two-run home run and the Blue Jays beat the Orioles to avoid a three-game sweep.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. had two hits and scored twice and Teoscar Hernandez drove in a pair for the Blue Jays.

Padres 5, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Fernando Tatís Jr. homered twice and had four RBIs and Manuel Margot also homered Sunday and the Padres rolled into the All-Star break on a three-game winning streak after beating the Dodgers.

Joey Lucchesi (7-4) held the Dodgers in check into the seventh inning while Margot hit a home run for the second consecutive day.

Athletics 7, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Matt Olson hit a home run for the second straight game to lead a five-run first inning and the Athletics powered past the Mariners.

The win gave the Athletics their seventh win in nine games, and ninth in their last 12.

All-Star Futures Game ends in 2-2 tie after 8 innings

CLEVELAND (AP)—On this night, baseball's future stayed undecided.

Texas catching prospect Sam Huff's two-run homer in the seventh inning rallied the American League to a 2-2 tie with the National League on Sunday—and provided the first glimpse of an All-Star tiebreaker—in a Futures Game that promised to be different and delivered.

This year's format was changed with the game shortened from nine to seven innings, and Huff's homer off Colorado's Ben Bowden forced the game into the eighth—this time, extras—and earned him MVP honors.

Both teams began their at-bats in the eighth with a runner at second, the same tiebreaking system already being used in the minor leagues. But after neither

could push a run across, the 21st game featuring baseball's up-and-coming stars ended with a thud.

The same tiebreaker could come into play in Tuesday's All-Star Game. Major League Baseball plans to implement it after the past two games went 10 innings.



"It was definitely unique, but in a situation like this, it was necessary," said Nationals shortstop Carter Kieboom. "Guys need their (All-Star) break, so you can't play forever and you only have so many pitchers here."

"It definitely speeds up the game in the minor leagues. I can't really predict the future. I don't know if the game of Major League Baseball will allow it because of its history, and it would be a drastic

change. Maybe teams would try harder to score in the ninth inning if it happened."

Beyond the other adjustments, the biggest difference in this year's game was a lack of scoring. Last year, the U.S. won 10-6 as Reds prospect Taylor Trammell homered and tripled.

Down to their final two outs, and blanked over six innings, the AL tied it in the seventh on Huff's shot onto the pedestrian patio in left.

The 21-year-old connected on a 1-0 pitch from Bowden, who is 20 for 20 in save opportunities in Double-A and Triple-A this season.

After rounding the bases, Huff was greeted at the dugout by the entire AL squad, which spilled out along with Hall of Fame slugger Jim Thome, who managed the youngsters.

Mexico deals US reality check in Gold Cup finals

CHICAGO (AP)—The U.S. men's soccer players showed how far, far behind they are the women.

Hours after the American women won their fourth World Cup, the men were outplayed by Mexico in the CONCACAF Gold Cup final. Jonathan Dos Santos scored in the 73rd minute to give the El Tri a 1-0 victory Sunday night.

Star Christian Pulisic and captain Weston McKennie both left Soldier Field without speaking to reporters about the latest setback to a program still trying to rebound from its failure to qualify for last year's World Cup.

"Over the course of 90 minutes, Mexico was the better team," Gregg Berhalter said after his first tournament as U.S. coach. "What we lacked was I think some of the calmness, some of the composure."

Despite missing their top three forwards, El Tri had 58% possession, outshot the U.S. 20-10 and won their eighth Gold Cup title to six for the U.S., which dropped to 1-5 in Gold Cup finals against its biggest rival.

Days before he reports to Chelsea, Pulisic was by far the best U.S. player, using bursts of speed and cutting ability to create chances, but he rarely touched the ball in the second half. The 20-year-old midfielder was given the tour-



AP Mexico defender Luis Rodríguez, left, and United States forward Paul Arriola battle for the ball during the first half of the CONCACAF Gold Cup final soccer match in Chicago, Sunday, July 7, 2019. Mexico won, 1-0.

cer for the LA Galaxy. He passed the ball to Rolando Pizarro, who switched from the left flank to the right in the second half. Pizarro crossed in the penalty area where Raúl Jiménez played a back-heal pass to Dos Santos, who had continued his run. His left-footed shot went by the outstretched arm of Steffen for just his third goal in 46 international appearances.

"We couldn't quite find the first pass to get out in certain moments," midfielder Michael Bradley said. "Obviously then you get a little bit tired, and they start to gain some momentum, obviously. It culminates with them getting them the goal."

Bradley was among four holdovers in the starting lineup from the 11 who began the October 2017 loss at Trinidad and Tobago that cost the U.S. a World Cup berth, joined by Pulisic, midfielder Paul Arriola and forward Jozy Altidore.

Altidore scuffed an open left-footed shot from 10 yards in the seventh minute. Jordan

Morris beat goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa with a 6-yard header from Pulisic's corner kick in the 51st minute, but Andrés Guardado headed the ball away at the goal line. Second-half sub Cristian Roldan's point-blank shot hit Héctor Moreno on the head and bounced away in the 87th.

"We just couldn't put our chances away tonight," Altidore said. "If you look at that 10-, 15-minute period, we kind of lost the game a bit. We were trying to play out of the back and stick to our guns, but maybe it was a time to kind of get up the field and try to get in their half and kind of change that momentum a bit."

Mexico was playing in its first tournament under new coach Tata Martino. El Tri has not lost a competitive match to the U.S. since 2013, winning three, drawing one and re-establishing itself as the region's power.

Berhalter, the first American to coach the national team after playing in the World Cup for the U.S., wants a possession-based team. Qualifying for the 2022 World Cup will not start until next summer, leaving the biennial championship of North and Central America and the Caribbean as the first measuring test.

"We're close," he said, "but we weren't there tonight."

NMI

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farelli in the women's singles, 22-20, 25-23. Tupu Fua's 21-13, 21-18 victory over Daniel Macario put Samoa on the board, but the CNMI sealed the win in the next game when Jordan Pangilinan teamed up with Nathan Guerrero in downing Faalogoifo and Aukuso Sue in the men's doubles play, 21-14, 21-18.

"When the team started winning, I felt even more motivated to win. It felt good to seal the victory against the home team," Guerrero said.

For the last match in the CNMI-Samoa pairing, Mala-sarte and Pangilinan completed the visiting team's domination of the host with a come-from-behind 20-22, 21-14, 21-14 triumph over Ioane and Peta Teo.

The CNMI's win on Day 1 of the badminton tournament was featured in Oceania Badminton website.

Oceania Badminton reported how the "self-sufficient" team managed to compete in Samoa and make a mark in the opening day of the competition. The squad, which was formed by Northern Marianas Badminton Association, had limited training time for the Games after Saipan was hammered by Super Typhoon Yutu and relied on YouTube



SAMOA BADMINTON FEDERATION
The CNMI's Nate Guerrero, second left, enters the court, as he and Jordan Pangilinan played Samoa on Day 1 of the badminton competition in the XVI Pacific Games yesterday in Samoa.

tutorials and other websites to sharpen their skills.

"We don't have an official coach, so we look to YouTube, Facebook, we just try to see what they are doing and incorporate it into our own games," Ezekiel Macario was quoted as saying by Oceania Badminton.

Meanwhile, before facing Samoa, the CNMI, which is playing in the Pacific Games for the first time, debuted against the highly favored Tahiti. The No. 1 seed cruised to a 5-0 victory, while Fiji handed the Commonwealth its second loss in the final pairing on Day 1.

In other results in the team event, Tahiti routed Kiribati and Tonga in similar scores, 4-1, for the early lead in the seven-squad field. Fiji is in second place with a 2-0 mark, as it also hammered Tonga, 5-0. New Caledonia matched Fiji's 2-0 slate after beating Kiribati, 4-1, and Tonga, 5-0. Samoa battled back from its opening loss to the CNMI after edging Kiribati, 3-2.

The team event has a round-robin format and the CNMI is still very much in the medal race with three games left in its schedule. Today, Guerrero and company will take on

New Caledonia at 10am (7am Saipan time) and Kiribati at 3pm. The Commonwealth bets will close out its pool play assignments tomorrow when they face Tonga at 10am.

Swimmers, spikers debut; tennis rained-out

Sophia Gauran, Jinju Thompson, David Boyer, and Lenosuke Suzuki completed the 5-kilometer open water swim at the Mulifanua Sheraton Beach Resort. Thompson placed No. 8, while Gauran was ranked No. 9, and Suzuki and Boyer finished No. 10 and

11, respectively (official times were unavailable at press time).

Tahiti's Rahiti De Vos won the gold in the men's division and the Pacific Games' first after completing the race in 1:03:30. New Caledonia took the silver and bronze after Hugo Savignac and Benoit Riviere clocked in at 1:03:21 and 1:03:41, respectively.

In the women's division, 2015 winner Charlotte Robin of New Caledonia had a repeat after finishing the event in 1:10:40. New Caledonia also got the silver, as Maiana Flament (1:11:41) came in ahead of Fiji's Matelita Buadromo (1:19:27).

From open water swim, Thompson, Boyer, Suzuki, Gauran, Aika Watanabe, and Juhn Tenorio head to the Samoa Aquatic Centre today for the preliminary races.

Gauran is on Heat 1 of the 200m breaststroke event, while Suzuki and Boyer are on Heats 1 and 4, respectively, in the 50m butterfly qualifiers. Thompson will also race in the 50m butterfly and is on Heat 3, while Tenorio lines up on Heat 1 of the 200m backstroke event. Watanabe will debut, too, in the 200m backstroke and is on Heat 2, while Thompson is competing on Heat 1 of the same event.

Meanwhile, Tyce and Logan Mister were beaten in two sets

by Papua New Guinea's Richard Batari and Loi Walo, 21-17, 21-7, at the Apia Waterfront.

The CNMI bets will play anew today and they will duel Tuvalu, which was defeated by Kiribati, 2-1. The Misters are in Pool A and will compete in a round-robin format in the eliminations. The Top 3 teams from the four groups will advance to the Round of 12 and then the competition will be down to eight squads and both rounds will have a single-elimination format.

In other Day 1 results, only two matches were played in tennis due to rain.

The CNMI's Isabel Heras lost to Samoa's Eleanor Schuster, 0-6, 4-6, in the first singles play.

PNG won over the Cook Islands in the other singles match.

The CNMI-Samoa game will resume today with Carol Lee battling Steffi Carruthers in the other singles match. A Lee victory will bring the team event game to a deciding doubles play where the opposing teams will bank of the same four players.

In the men's team event, the CNMI's game against Kiribati has been rescheduled and instead, Colin Sinclair, Ken Song, and Robbie Schorr will challenge the Solomon Islands bets today.

Marianas Variety nips DC in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Prince Factor scored only one basket in the fourth quarter, but it mattered the most, as his follow up handed *Marianas Variety* a thrilling 73-72 victory over DC in the Bracket A finals of the 2019 Civic Center Basketball League last Sunday in Susupe.

Factor delivered the dagger off Melvin Villarin's miss in the last five seconds of the game to lift *Marianas Variety* to a come-from-behind win.

Marianas Variety faced a double-digit deficit at the end of the third period, 50-60, and also played catch up in the majority of the first half before rallying in the fourth to pull off an upset over the then undefeated DC.

Ken Viray and Joshua

Andrew spearheaded *Marianas Variety*'s recovery, as they combined for 11 points in the fourth period before Prince Factor's game-winner. Prince's younger brother, Angelo, also helped out, making 8 of his 9 markers in the crucial fourth period, including important free throws. Syd Quan was the fifth *Marianas Variety* player to hit the board in the fourth canto.

DC, on the other hand, had only four players nailing a field goal in the final frame and no one made more than two baskets. Paolo Rafols scored 4 points, while Jack Aranda, Sean Rabasto, and Greg Sablan were held to 2 markers apiece. Jaymark De Guzman, who logged 8 points after the third, was scoreless in the fourth as he was ejected from the game with two minutes left in the finals after fighting with *Marianas Variety*'s John Babauta, who was



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas Variety's Salam Younis pulls up for a short jumper in front of DC defenders during the first quarter of the Bracket A finals in the Civic Center caging last Sunday in Susupe.

also thrown out of the match. Matt Duenas, who missed the first period of the game before combining for 11 points in the second and third, was scoreless, too in the fourth.

Despite missing their key players early in the game, DC managed to take a 20-13 lead at the end of the first period. Aranda and De Guzman teamed up for 13 points to put the No. 1 seed DC in the driver's seat.

DC remained on top in the second, 36-30, with Matt Duenas reporting for the match and backing up Aranda and company, but *Marianas Variety* stayed afloat, thanks to Viray's 9 markers in that period.

Duenas then brought DC's advantage back to double figures when he registered 7 points in the third canto and his eight teammates added at least one basket apiece.

Andrew and Prince Factor combined for 12 points in the third, while Viray chipped in 3 to prevent DC from breaking away in the penultimate frame. *Marianas Variety* then caught up with DC in the fourth and stole the victory off Prince Factor's putback.

***Marianas Variety* 73—**Viray 19, Andrew 16, P. Factor 13, A. Factor 9, Quan 8, Villarin 4, Standish 2, Castro 2.

DC 72—Aranda 14, Rafols 13, M. Duenas 11, De Guzman 8, Sablan 7, Flores 6, Rabasto 6, Abobo 3, E. Duenas 3, Tekopua 1.

Scoring by quarters: 13-20, 30-36, 50-60, 73-72.

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day night when Rapinoe converted a tiebreaking penalty kick in the second half and Rose Lavelle added a goal.

Rapinoe scored in the 61st minute after a video review determined Stefanie van der Gragt had fouled Alex Morgan with a kick to the shoulder while competing for a deflected pass in the penalty area.

Two days past her 34th birthday, Rapinoe slotted the ball past Sari van Veenendaal for her sixth goal of the tournament. She became the oldest player to score in a Women's World Cup final.

"Getting to play at the highest level of the World Cup with the team we have is just ridiculous. But to be able to couple that with everything on the field and to back up all of those words with performances and to back up all of those performances with words, it's just incredible," Rapinoe said. "I feel like this team is in the midst of changing the world around us as we live, and it's just an incredible feeling."

Lavelle, at 24 the team's up-and-coming star, added her third goal of the tournament on an 18-yard left-footed shot in the 69th after a solo run from the center circle.

"It's been a long journey. It doesn't seem real yet. I hasn't hit me, it's so surreal, to be part of this group and to play with these players," Lavelle said.

The monthlong journey isn't over quite yet for players who captured the hearts of a nation. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio needed just a few seconds after the match to invite the team to a ticker-tape parade up the Canyon of Heroes in Man-

hattan on Wednesday.

Fans, many dressed in red, white and blue, chanted "Equal Pay!" at the final whistle, a reminder players sued the U.S. Soccer Federation in March claiming gender discrimination. The sides have agreed to mediate the lawsuit.

Rapinoe drew the ire of U.S. President Donald Trump by saying she would refuse to visit the White House. Trump called out Rapinoe on Twitter, saying she should never "disrespect our Country, the White House, or our Flag, especially since so much has been done for her & the team." He said he would invite the team win or lose.

But shortly after the title game, Trump tweeted: "Congratulations to the U.S. Women's Soccer Team on winning the World Cup! Great and exciting play. America is proud of you all!"

The United States Women's National team shut down any doubt surrounding who is the best soccer team in the world with a 2-0 win over the Netherlands in the 2019 World Cup final.

But the Americans didn't simply capture a second consecutive championship and a record fourth title. They made it look effortless.

Here are five stats that prove just how dominant the USWNT team was in its run to the championship:

■ Best goal differential in Women's World Cup history. In seven games, the USWNT recorded 26 goals and four shutouts, while allowing three total goals. The Americans' goal differential of 23 edged out Norway's 1995

Rapinoe also called out FIFA on the eve of the championship, suggesting soccer's governing body was not doing enough to grow the women's game, pointing to unequal prize money and the scheduling of the final on the same day as the championships of the CONCACAF Gold Cup in Chicago and the Copa America final in Brazil.

Whether unequal treatment from soccer officials will change is uncertain. The Americans' dominance in France is unquestioned.

They never trailed at the tournament and set records with 26 goals and a 12-game World Cup winning streak dating to 2015. Jill Ellis became the first coach to lead a team to two Women's World Cup titles, and the U.S. joined Germany in 2003 and 2007 as the only repeat champions. While the U.S. has four titles,

Germany is the only other nation with even two.

"It's just chemistry. They put their hearts and soul into this journey," Ellis said. "They made history."

FIFA President Gianni Infantino handed over the trophy, a stark contrast to four years ago in Canada, when then-president Sepp Blatter was a no-show as U.S. prosecutors investigated corruption in soccer's governing body.

With confidence that some called arrogance—triggering a backlash that the angry response was sexist—this American team established a standard that exceeded the U.S. champions of 1991, 1999 and 2015, becoming a goal for all others to match. Mia Hamm and Brandi Chastain were among the former American players who joined the current generation for the postgame celebration. Tobin

Heath made angels in the fallen confetti.

Alyssa Naeher, the 31-year-old who succeeded Hope Solo in goal, faced repeated questions entering the tournament but allowed just three goals and finished with her fourth shutout.

The U.S. had scored within the first 12 minutes of its previous six matches but the European champions sat back to keep their defensive shape and kept the score 0-0 through the first half.

Video review, adopted by FIFA for the men's World Cup last year, showed its impact when Stephanie Frappart, the first woman to referee a men's Ligue 1 match, initially did not call the foul on Morgan, then went to the screen at the side of the field, watched replays and signaled toward the spot.

Rapinoe, who missed Tuesday's semifinal win over Eng-

land with a hamstring injury, became the first woman to score on a penalty kick during a Women's World Cup final, her 50th goal in 158 international appearances. She ended the Netherlands' 317-minute scoreless streak and matched Morgan and England's Ellen White for most goals in the tournament, winning the Golden Ball based on fewer minutes.

Rapinoe was given a standing ovation when she was substituted in the 79th minute. The crowd of 57,900 at Stade de Lyon for Le Grand Finale included France President Emmanuel Macron.

Rebounding from a loss to Sweden on penalty kicks in the quarterfinals of the 2016 Olympics, the Americans opened the World Cup with a record 13-0 rout of lowly Thailand, triggering debate over whether the celebrations after each goal were excessive. Carli Lloyd responded the next match by following a goal with a polite golf clap. Then Morgan stirred it up again when she scored against England and celebrated as if sipping tea, pinkie outstretched.

Now, after all the memorable drama, they will have a fourth star above the crest on the team's jerseys and a higher platform to advance their cause.

"It's something that we've worked so hard for. All of us, individually, have just faced so much adversity through this whole journey," Morgan said. "We've been tested individually and collectively so much. So to see, four years ago, us go from two to three, and now three to four, it's really a dream come true."

FIVE STATS ON US DOMINANCE

WWC team for the top spot in the record books.

■ No comebacks necessary. The Americans never trailed in any of their seven World Cup matches.

■ Offense—from the start. The United States' 26

total goals are a WC record. The USWNT had 132 shots (58 on target) and nine different goal scorers in the tournament. In its opening game against Thailand, the USWNT broke three World Cup records: most goals scored by

any team in a WC match (13), largest margin of victory in a WC match and most individual goal scorers in a single WWC match (seven).

■ On the board early. In every game except the final, the Americans scored in the first 12 minutes of play. (They scored in the 61st minute Sunday.) The Americans scored first in every game.

■ Going gold and silver. The Top 2 scorers in the tournament came from the USWNT: Megan Rapinoe won the Golden Boot with six goals and three assists, while Alex Morgan received the Silver Boot with six goals and three assists. Rapinoe got the nod because she scored more on a minute-per-goal basis (428 to 490).

GOAL DIFFERENTIAL RECORD

Country	Year	GF	GA	GD
U.S.	2019	26	3	23
Norway	1995	23	1	22
Germany	2003	25	4	21
Germany	2007	21	0	21
U.S.	1991	25	5	20
China	1999	19	2	17
U.S.	1999	18	3	15
Germany	2015	20	6	14
Brazil	2007	17	4	13
Sweden	991	18	7	11



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Saipan Tribune Sports

Astros win;
Angels catcher
Lucroy falls

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Back-to-back champions

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP SPORTS WRITER

LYON, France (AP) — Megan Rapinoe stood on the field, arms outstretched, striking her now trademark victory pose symbolizing the confidence of a U.S. team that celebrated and savored each triumph at the Women's World Cup.

 Rapinoe won the Golden Ball as top player and the Golden Boot as top scorer, and the United States backed up its brashness by winning while simultaneously making a strong statement for gender equity.

"We've done exactly what we set out to do, done exactly what we wanted to do, said what we feel," Rapinoe said. "All of us, really. I know sometimes my voice is louder, but everybody is in this together. We're such a proud and strong and defiant group of women."



The United States players celebrate after winning the Women's World Cup finals against the Netherlands at the Stade de Lyon in Decines, outside Lyon, France, Sunday, July 7, 2019. AP

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United States' Megan Rapinoe scores her side's opening goal from a penalty shot during the Women's World Cup final soccer match between the U.S. and the Netherlands at the Stade de Lyon in Decines, outside Lyon, France, Sunday, July 7, 2019.

NMI routs Samoa in badminton

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Badminton Team silenced the home crowd

with an emphatic 4-1 victory over Samoa, as competitions in the XVI Pacific Games kicked off yesterday.

 Andreau Galvez and Janelle Pangilinan played first for the Commonwealth and swept Charles Faalogoifo and Folole Ioane in

the mixed doubles, 21-17, 21-17. The debuting CNMI crew then went 2-0 after Nicole Malasarte topped Lizzie Caf-
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CNMI and Samoa badminton players pose for a photo before their game at the Multipurpose Gymnasium of the Faleata Sports Complex during Day 1 of the XVI Pacific Games in Samoa. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO